





Pat Connally



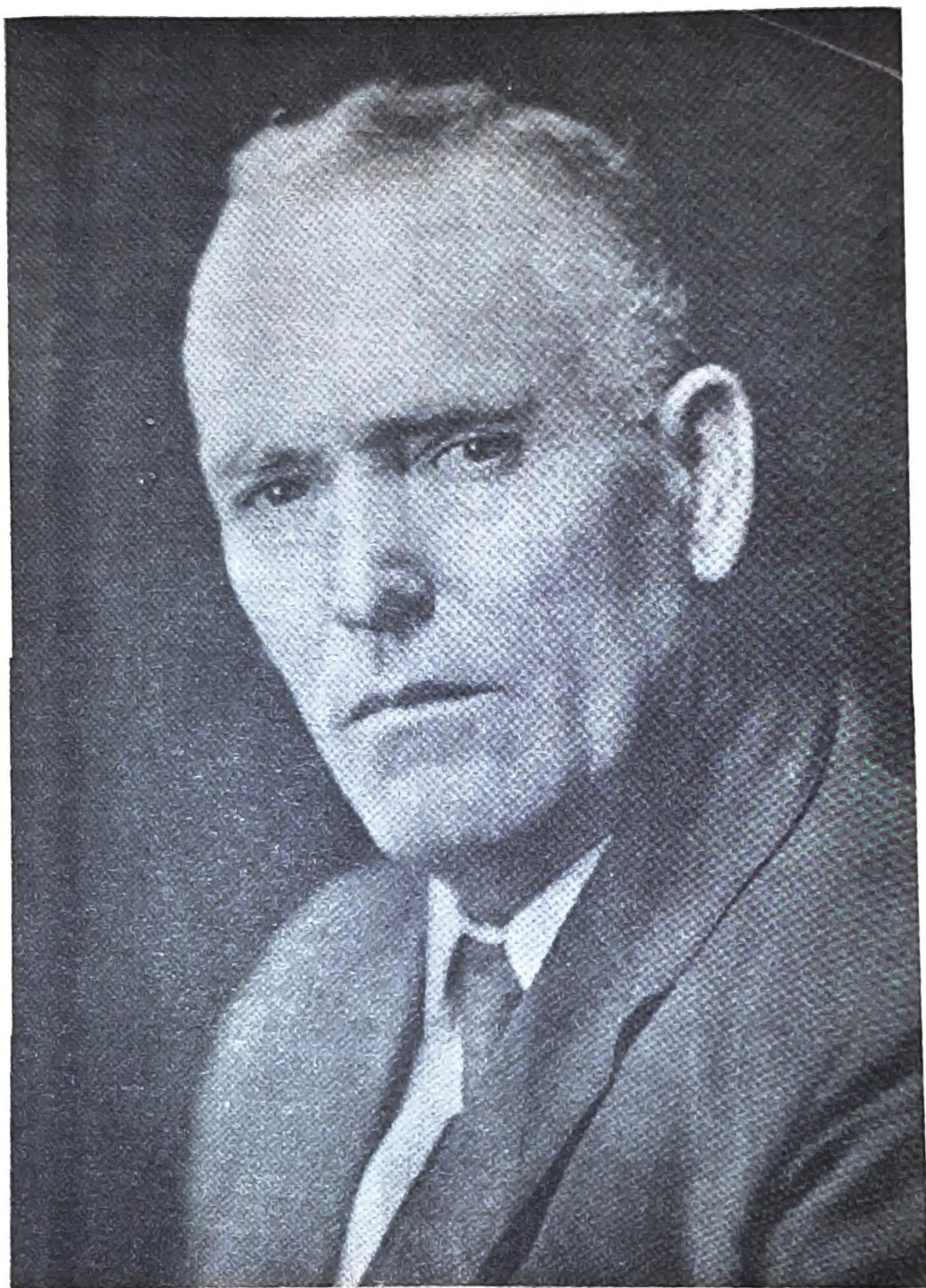














# Franklin County History

CENTENNIAL EDITION

Prepared for the Franklin County  
Centennial Committee, By

H. M. AIKEN

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## FRANKLIN COUNTY CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

H. CLAY ING, County Superintendent of Schools, President

NEALY I. GLENN, County Judge, Secretary

ROY C. MARTIN, States Attorney

QUINCY E. BURGESS, County Treasurer

F. D. WHITTINGTON, Circuit Clerk

WM. D. SEEGER, County Clerk

ROBT. S. WATKINS, Sheriff

WM. R. BROWNING, Coroner

MARSHALL NEAL, County Surveyor

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HIRAM M. AIKEN, Sr.

Hiram M. Aiken, Sr. son of Robert M. and Teresa (Atchison) Aiken, was born on a farm in Eastern Township, Franklin County, Illinois, on August 17th 1867. After attending his local district school, he attended Ewing College and later completed his academic education at the then Southern Illinois Normal at Carbondale, Illinois.

While he was still pursuing his studies at the latter institution of learning, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools of Franklin County in 1894. He was again elected to this county office in 1902. Mr. Aiken first taught school at Macedonia, Illinois, where, in 1891, he married Cora Johnson. To this union eleven children were born.

He spent practically all his life in educational and agricultural affairs. After teaching in several schools of the county, for a number of years he was engaged in the feed and grain business in Benton. For sixteen years he was secretary of the then Franklin County Farmers Institute.

In later life he returned to his first love, - the profession of teaching, and for nine years served as Principal of the Washington School. He died October 16th 1929.

In speaking to Mr. Aiken, a contemporary of his used this quote,

"His life was gentle and the elements  
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world. This was a man."



## FRANKLIN COUNTY CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

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At the Forty-eighth General Assembly, a resolution was introduced and passed creating the Illinois Centennial Commission for the purpose of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the state of Illinois since its admission into the Union of States. This commission is composed of:

Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, Chairman.....	Chicago
Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Secretary.....	Springfield
Dr. Edward Bowe.....	Jacksonville
Hon. John W. Bunn.....	Springfield
Hon. William Butterworth.....	Moline
Hon. Leon A. Colp.....	Marion
Rev. R. W. Ennis.....	Mason City
Professor E. B. Greene.....	Urbana
President Harry Pratt Judson.....	Chicago
Hon. George Pasfield, Jr.....	Springfield
Hon. William N. Pelouze.....	Chicago
Hon. A. J. Poorman, Jr.....	Fairfield
Judge Thomas F. Scully.....	Chicago
Rev. Frederic Siedenburg, S. J.....	Chicago

### DIRECTOR OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Hugh S. Magill, Jr.....	Springfield
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The State Centennial Commission in order to carry out the idea of holding local celebrations over the state have appointed a County Centennial Committee in each county of the state.

The present county officials of Franklin County were appointed the County Centennial Committee to manage the Centennial Celebration work. This committee met and organized by electing Co. Supt. of Schools H. Clay Ing, Chairman. and Co. Judge Nealy I. Glenn, Secretary.

As there is a great amount of work to be done in the holding of county celebrations and the county officials all being very busy men, appointed H. M. Aiken as Field Secretary to the County Centennial Committee.

If the observance of the 100th anniversary of our state and county is to be of permanent value to the people it should furnish a survey of the progress of the century.

The century of progress of the state and county cannot be fully understood and appreciated without a knowledge of the early history of the country.

The plan of the County Centennial Committee is to furnish the people of the county a history of its progress and development from its origin to the present date.

To hold local celebrations at different points in the county. The celebration is to be managed in such a manner so the local history may be told by some one who is familiar with it. A marker that will point out some important event in the century's history, and an exhibition of relics of the past that will contrast the present methods of living with the past methods.

The first celebration was held at Mt. Etna Church in Eastern Township. The object of the celebration was the observance of the fact that Mt. Etna Church is the first Methodist Church in the county. This was duly celebrated July 28, 1918—the 96th anniversary of the establishment of the church. The church was founded 1822. At Liberty Church in

Cave Township was observed the first settlement in Franklin County which was the one hundred sixteenth anniversary of the settlement of the county. A marker was erected to point the facts in history connected with the place. The celebrations took place August 10, 1918. Mt. Pleasant Church Celebration August 17, 1918, and celebrates the founding of the first Missionary Baptist Church in the county, and the settlement on Browning Hill by John Browning 1814. Markers are erected to point out these facts. White Church in Denning Township Celebration August 18, and Church Home Coming and Centennial Celebration. Old Frankfort Celebration Sept. 8, 1918, and dedication of marker for the first court house in the county.

Harrison Family Celebration, on Andy's Creek, Aug. 25th, 1918. Marker to be erected to the memory of Isham Harrison, a delegate to the first constitutional convention held at Kaskaskia in 1818.

The Aiken-McLean Celebration at Knob Prairie Church in Eastern Township, Aug. 29th, 1918; 100th anniversary of the coming of these families to Illinois. A marker is to be erected to point out this fact.

The Webb's Prairie Celebration, at Middlefork Church, Aug. 30, 1818. Two markers erected, one for the oldest church in county, and the other the first watermill erected in the county.

The Mulkeytown Celebration, Sept. 1, 1918. Object of observance is the first Christian Church established in Illinois. The marker points out the fact that the church was established in 1823.

The Townmount Celebration, at the Townmount Church in Denning Township, Sept. 15, 1918. Object of celebration is the observance of the Indian battle ground. A decisive battle was fought between the Shawnee and Kaskaskia Indians in 1802. A marker that points out these facts is erected.



The Centennial Celebration for the county will be held at Benton Fair Grounds Sept. 20, 1918.

A spectacular parade will form near the public square and pass around the court house to the fair grounds. This parade will contain many floats to represent the stages of development in the county's history. A Museum of Relics will be installed in the floral hall.

Moving pictures—patriotic and historical—will be a feature of the day.

A grand parade of school children of the county will be a feature that will not be soon forgotten.

The committee expects to put on a pageant, "Masque of Illinois" at the fair grounds in the evening.

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

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The State of Illinois and Franklin County celebrate their 100th anniversary this year. The full significance of a century of statehood and county-hood can best be understood and appreciated if a knowledge of the early history be acquired.

With this idea in mind, the author has attempted to prepare a history of Franklin County that will meet this demand.

This work is an attempt to portray the origin and organization of Franklin County; the pioneers, their modes of living, social life, their schools and churches, their roads, industries, early towns and villages; the development of the coal industry, the building of the industrial centers and the building of railroads.

The author is indebted to the Illinois Centennial Commission for the information contained in their introductory volume; to the Goodspeed Publishing Company of Chicago for the use of the information found in their History of Franklin County; to George W. Smith, author of Southern Illinois History, for reference to his history; to the Lectures of Rev. Braxton Parrish; to the Autobiography of W. J. Whittington; to the Article by M. G. McCreery and to the Franklin County Prospectus.

We acknowledge the valuable service of O. M. Machiel, a photographer of Benton, in securing pictures for use in this volume.









CENTENNIAL QUARTETTE THAT FURNISHED MUSIC FOR THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, 1918

Judge Nealy I. Glenn, Tenor

Rev. J. S. Meads, Baritone

H. Clay Ing, Bass

C. B. Teague, Soprano

## CHAPTER I.

### THE GEOGRAPHY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY.

In studying the history of a country three important elements are involved, namely, time, place and character. It is important to locate the events in history as to the time of occurrence, and equally important to fix the place for the event, without a fixed time and place there can be no real tangible concept.

The value of the study of character is the inspiration that it gives. Before entering upon the history of Franklin County let us consider the physical and political phases of the county as this may greatly aid us.

Let us look at the territory we call Franklin County and compare it with some other like organizations that make up the great state of Illinois.

Look at an Illinois map, and you will see Franklin County is located midway between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. and is near the geographical center of Southern Illinois.

This fixes the location in the state. The county forms its boundary as follows: On the north, Jefferson; east, Hamilton and Saline; south, Williamson; west, Jackson and Perry. This fixes its relation to other adjacent counties.

The Franklin County of today is about 24 miles long east and west and 18 miles wide making nearly a rectangular figure which our minds can grasp as to its form. The reader will observe the form of the county is not a rectangle as it is not 24 miles on the north but is on the south. Originally the third principal meridian was the western boundary of the county but the legislature of 1835 made Little Muddy the boundary line of the county for 12 miles on the west.

There are 10 full congressional townships in the county, and three fractional congressional townships. Can the reader

name the figures that will locate these townships? An election was held on Nov. 7, 1871, in the county for or against township organization. The proposition for township organization carried and the County Court appointed three men to divide the county into civil townships as it is today, with the exception of Township 7 Range 2 East which they named Townmount instead of Denning as it is now called. The naming of the civil townships were as follows: Tp. 5S., R. 4 E., was called Northern; Tp. 5 S., R. 3 E., Ewing; Tp. 5S., R. 2 E., Barren; the part east of Little Muddy in Tp. 5S., R. 1 E., Goode; the part between Little Muddy and Third Principal Meridian in Tp. 6 S., R. 1 W. and the part east of Little Muddy in Tp. 6 S., R. 1 E., Tyrone; Tp. 6 S., R. 2 E., Browning; Tp. 6 S., R. 3 E., Benton; Tp. 6 S., R. 4 E., Eastern; Tp. 7 S., R. 4 E., Cave; Tp. 7 S., R. 3 E., Frankfort; Tp. 7 S., R. 2 E., Denning; and Tp. 7 S., R. 1 E., Six Mile.

The streams of Franklin County with but one exception, flow in a south or southwest direction indicating the slope of the surface to the southwest. The highest point of land is in the northeast part of the county. The Ohio and Mississippi land divide is near the eastern line. The drainage systems of the county are the Big Muddy, Little Muddy, Middle Fork, Pond Creek, and Saline Creek.

The Big Muddy River rises in Jefferson County and flows southwest through the county. The major portion of the county is east of the river. In fact all the streams of the county are a part of the Big Muddy system, with the exception of the Saline Creek in Cave Township.

The Big Muddy system proper includes the Big Muddy River and its small tributaries, such as Casey's Fork, Gun Prairie Creek; Markum, Andy's Creek and other small streams.

This system drains Barren, Browning, Six Mile and a portion of Ewing, Denning and Tyrone.

The Middle Fork system, while a tributary of Big Muddy, drains as much territory as the Big Muddy.



Its tributaries are Page, Sugar Camp, Taylor, Jordan, Drummond, Cotton Wood, Aiken, Brush Prairie, and Ewing Creeks, draining Northern, Eastern, Benton, and part of Ewing, Frankfort, Denning, and Cave.

Pond Creek drains the south part of Frankfort and Denning and is a tributary to the Big Muddy. The Saline Creek rises in Cave Township and flows southeast to the Ohio river. There are 10 prairies in Franklin County, namely: Webb's, Six Mile, Townmount, Four Mile, Long, Frizzel, Rawlings, Knob, Horse, and Crawford.

A large number of the names of prairies, creeks, townships and towns took their names from the early settlers. There is about one-fourth of the surface of the county prairies. The rest of the county was originally covered with virgin timber, such as the oak family, ash, maple, hickory, sycamore, birch, elm, sassafras, wild cherry, etc.

Underlaid in Franklin County is the best vein of coal in the U. S., averaging about 8 feet in thickness. The coal varies in depth from about 300 feet in the southwest part of the county to 800 feet in the northeast. The coal industry is creating more than \$50,000,000.00 of wealth annually.

## CHAPTER II.

### ORIGIN OF FRANKLIN COUNTY.

The present territory of Franklin County was first occupied by the Indians. The valley of the Big Muddy and its tributaries were a paradise for the Indian hunter. The woods abound with wild animals whose flesh was good for food and whose skin or fur was suitable for clothing. The Indians had their village generally on some river or lake, as their headquarters, and would make incursion into what is now known as Franklin County to hunt. The eastern portion of the county was a camp ground for the hunters. Also on the west of Big Muddy was another camp ground. As evidence of this, numerous Indian relics, such as spikes, axes, etc., have been found on their grounds.

The Indians of Illinois belong to the great Algonquin family of Indians. The tribes of the state were joined together in a strong confederacy called the Illini which means "REAL MEN." The tribes that composed this confederacy were the Kaskaskias, Cahokias, Michigamies, Peoras, and Tamaroas, and they originally occupied the territory of the great river of the state,—Illinois River. The river took its name from the confederacy, and the name Illinois, was later applied to the political organization, later still, called the State of Illinois. The Shawnee Indians occupied the Ohio ~~River~~ Valley and were enemies of the Illini confederacy.

The village of the Shawnee Indians was called Shawnee and was located on the Ohio River near the City of Shawneetown. The Shawnees occupied the territory of Southern Illinois from the Ohio River to the Big Muddy River. The territory west of the Big Muddy and to the Mississippi River was occupied from about 1680 to 1830 by the Kaskaskia Indians. Their village being located near the old town of Kaskaskia,

the Shawnees and Kaskaskias had many battles and were bitter enemies.

The Shawnees seemed to be the stronger of the two tribes.

About the year 1802, the Kaskaskias had crossed over the Big Muddy River and were encroaching on the Shawnee territory. Some Shawnee Indian spies had discovered the Kaskaskias on their territory in Townmount prairie. Tradition has it, that an Indian girl was seen going over the old Frankfort hill at sunset, by the next morning a large number of warriors were at Frankfort Hill ready for battle. A great battle now seems inevitable. Preparation for battle begins. Breast works were thrown up in anticipation of the forthcoming battle. The battle was a fierce one and lasted for some time, slowly the Kaskaskias began to retreat westward toward the Big Muddy River. They crossed the river and reached Little Muddy, which was swollen and difficult to cross. And here a great many of the Kaskaskias were killed. Some, however, succeeded in crossing, but were overtaken near where Old Du Quoin is and the tribe almost annihilated. The Indian chief of the Kaskaskia was John Baptiste Du Quoin, a cross between a Frenchman and an Indian, who succeeded in escaping. The spot where the Kaskaskias were massacred was named Du Quoin after this noted Indian chief. The coming of the Illinois Central railroad, the station on the road was called DuQuoin, which is one of the leading cities in Southern Illinois.

To this day can be seen some evidence of this great Indian battle which settled the dispute to the hunting ground on the Big Muddy. This battle was fought in the Townmount prairie near the cross roads at the public well about two miles from Frankfort. The white settlers were soon able to drive the Indians out of this county. The Indians occasionally came back to hunt and for a while were very troublesome, stealing the settlers' corn and stock. The last visit of the



Indians to the county was on the lower Big Muddy about 1832. The French were the first white people to occupy the Mississippi Valley. La Salle found on his trip down the Mississippi River the Illini confederation, and he was the first to give the territory of Illinois the name the "Illinois Country."

The French made a settlement at the Indian village, Kaskaskia, about 1700, and by building a system of forts in the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys, they expected to be able to defend the territory.

The English had settled along the Atlantic seaboard and claimed the western territory that was occupied by the French. A clash of arms between the two nations was inevitable. At the battle of Quebec the French lost all their colonial possessions in America. Kaskaskia and the "Illinois Country" fell into the hands of the Englishmen in 1759.

The burden of the cost of the war was placed upon the English colonies. They refused to pay the tax placed upon them and the Revolutionary war resulted. Col. Geo. Roger Clark, with a small army of Virginians, known as "Long Knives," captured Kaskaskia and Cahokia from the English for Virginia.

The Virginia legislature formed this captured territory into one great county and named it the "Illinois County." This was the largest county ever created, including five states, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin. There was some enmity springing up between those states that had western possession and those that did not have any. So to pacify them, Virginia agreed to cede the County of Illinois to the general government.

The general government organized this territory into the "North West Territory" in 1787. Gen. Arthur St. Clair, a revolutionary soldier, was appointed its first governor, and the seat of government was located at Marrietta. Gov. St. Clair came on to Marrietta and formed the first county ever organized in the "North West Territory" and named it Washington in honor of President Washington who was then president.



The governor created another new county farther down the Ohio, this was called Hamilton, in honor of Alexander Hamilton who was then Secretary of the Treasury, and made Cincinnati the county seat, this being the second county organized in the North West Territory. Gov. St. Clair visited Kaskaskia in 1790 and while at this place created a new county. This took in the territory west of the Wabash and Ohio rivers. This was called St. Clair County in honor of Gov. St. Clair, and Cahokia was made the county seat. This was the mother of Illinois counties. The settlement of Kaskaskia objected to this, so, in 1795 St. Clair County was divided and the south part of the county was formed into a new county, called Randolph in honor of Edmond Randolph, attorney general under Washington, and Kaskaskia was made the county seat. In 1800, William Henry Harrison, of Log Cabin fame, and who became president in 1841, was a delegate in Congress. He advocated a bill creating the Indiana Territory out of the old Northwest, making Vincennes the capital, this included the territory of Illinois. The president (Thos. Jefferson) appointed Harrison governor of Indiana Territory, when it was created. In 1809 there was some dissatisfaction on the part of the Kaskaskia settlements about being attached to Indiana Territory. So the Illinois part of Indiana Territory asked Congress to form a new territory. So Congress granted their wishes and the Territory of Illinois was created, with capital at Kaskaskia. Judge Ninian Edwards of Kentucky, was appointed the first territorial governor by James Madison. Edwards was endorsed by Henry Clay who was then U. S. Senator from Kentucky. In 1812, the Territory of Illinois was made a territory of the second class which allowed a delegate in Congress from Illinois Territory, and then three new counties were organized—Madison, Johnson and Gallatin, with county seats respectively, Edwardsville, Elvira, and Shawneetown.

Madison was named in honor of President Madison; Johnson was named in honor of Richard M. Johnson, U. S. Senator from Kentucky, and who was the slayer of Tecumseh, the great Shawnee chief; Gallatin was named in honor of Albert Gallatin. The territory of Franklin, first a part of St. Clair, then a part of Randolph, and finally Gallatin County, was organized. The Big Muddy was made the boundary line.

The present Franklin County was divided between Gallatin and Randolph. Gallatin County took in the Ohio Country up to the English settlement called Albion. The discovery of Salt Licks and Saline water, attracted a great many people to this vicinity. Then Shawneetown became a port of the entry on the Ohio for the southeast portion of Southern Illinois.

A land office was opened up at Shawneetown, and this part of Illinois Territory grew very rapidly in population.

The north part of Gallatin was organized in 1815 in White County and named in honor of the manager of the Salt Works at Equality, Capt. Isaac White, who lost his life at the battle of Tippecanoe. Carmi was made the county seat. This included the eastern part of Franklin. The western part of Franklin now was a part of Jackson, named in honor of the hero of New Orleans. The county seat of Jackson County was Brownsville. As the Territory of Illinois continued to grow rapidly the question of statehood was being advocated. To foster this movement it was thought wise to create three more counties, consequently, the territorial legislation created Union, Washington, and Franklin Counties, January 2, 1818. The new county of Franklin took its name from Benjamin Franklin who, next to Washington, did more to win independence than any other man. Franklin was the fifteenth county when Illinois became a state, April 18th, 1819, and finally, December 3rd, 1818, she took her position among the states of the union. The county is a few months older than the state. The first county seat of Franklin County was at the home of Moses Garret, about three miles east of Frankfort.

Moses Garret sold the county land on Frankfort Hill and in 1826 the county seat was located at Frankfort. The Franklin County of 1818, included what is now Williamson County. In 1839, the county was divided and Williamson County was organized by act of the Illinois legislature and Bainbridge was made the county seat. Benton was made the new county seat of Franklin County.

To summarize the political evolution of Franklin County has been by steps as follows:

Indians (National units) to French, 1700; to Clark for Virginia, 1778; by Virginia to Government, 1784; by Government to N. W. Ter., 1787; to Indiana Ter., 1800; to Illinois Ter., 1809; to Illinois Ter. of 2nd class, 1812; to Illinois State, 1818, December 3rd.

(County Units)

St. Clair County, organized 1790, including territory of Franklin County; Randolph County, organized 1795, including territory of Franklin County; Gallatin County, organized 1812, including territory of Franklin County; White County, organized 1815, including territory of Franklin County; Jackson County, organized 1816, including territory of Franklin County; Franklin County, organized 1818, January 2nd.



## CHAPTER III.

### ORGANIZATION OF FRANKLIN COUNTY.

The citizens of the state of Illinois and Franklin County owe a debt of gratitude to Daniel Pope Cook who first advocated statehood for the Territory of Illinois and whose influence brought about the organization of Franklin County as one of the political units of the state.

Mr. Cook was a son-in-law of the territorial governor Ninian Edwards, and was a nephew of Nathaniel Pope who then represented Illinois in Congress and who was the author of the Bill for Statehood for Illinois.

Cook County was named in his honor.

Mr. Cook was editor of the only newspaper in Illinois Territory, and through its columns he advocated statehood which caused the territorial legislature to present a memorial to Congress asking for statehood. When the legislature met Mr. Cook was elected clerk of the lower house which put him in touch with all the members. There were only twelve members of the legislature and they all roomed together, including the clerk,—Mr. Cook. In arranging the memorial Mr. Cook suggested that it would be wise to organize more counties which would make a better showing for the territory for statehood. Consequently, Union, Washington and Franklin Counties were organized Jan. 2, 1818. The memorial to Congress was presented in January, 1818, by Nathaniel Pope and Jan. 2, 1818, the bill passed creating Franklin County. April 18, 1818, the enabling act was passed by Congress, creating the Territory of Illinois into a state. Congress asked that the territory must contain 40,000 people before final admission.

Then came the hunt for people in all the counties to make the 40,000 required. The population of Franklin County was



reported at 1228 and contained 171 families. At this time Franklin County included Williamson. The total population of all the counties to date was 34,610 or 5,390 less than the required number. So another hunt was started. A diligent search was made. An enumerator was stationed on the main public highway so as to catch the emigrants. It is said that some emigrants headed for Missouri were solicited by the enumerator to stop in Illinois, the enumerator agreeing to find a suitable location for the newcomer. The enumerator thus added several persons to his list. The second report made the county's population 1281 or 53 more. By all the counties taking the second census the count stood 40,258 which now met the requirement of Congress. So Illinois became a state Dec. 3, 1818.

The reports of the territorial legislation of 1817 and 1818 show that a Mr. N. Davis of Jackson offered the petition or measure as prepared by Mr. Cook, to organize Franklin County. A Mr. S. F. Gard, of Edwards County suggested the name "Franklin" in honor of Benjamin Franklin who, next to Washington, had done more probably to win independence than any other man of that time.

Delegates to the Constitutional Convention to be held at Kaskaskia were selected in the new counties. Thomas Roberts of Frankfort and Isham Harrison of the Mulkeytown Country were selected as the delegates. The slavery question was the main issue in framing the constitution.

Ohio had been admitted so the delegate of the convention used its constitution as a guide.

Jesse B. Thomas afterwards U. S. Senator was president of this convention. Rev. James Lemon of New De Sign, in Monroe County, was an active member who stood for free Illinois. His efforts doubtless caused the state to be free. Judge Jesse B. Thomas was from Kentucky and stood for slavery. It was Jesse B. Thomas who suggested the items in the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Slavery was defeated in

this convention yet indentured slavery was allowed in the Salt Works near Equality.

The constitution was never submitted to the people for ratification. The new constitution provided for the election of Governor and members of the legislature, Congress, Sheriff and County Commissioners. The office of County Judge, Prosecuting Attorney, Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, Justice of the Peace, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Auditor, were filled by appointment of the governor.

## CHAPTER IV.

### EARLY SETTLERS AND SETTLEMENTS.

The present territory of Franklin County was settled first in 1804, near Liberty Church, about 2½ miles southeast of Thompsonville, by seven Jordan brothers, two Browning brothers, Wm. Barberry and a family by the name of Estes.

These families remained together for protection against the Indians and to help erect the houses. At that time the woods were full of hostile Indians and wild animals. The Indians had just emerged from a fierce battle among themselves, in which the tribe of Kaskaskias were defeated and almost annihilated. Mr. Barberry was killed and scalped by the Indians. This was the first white man killed in what is now Franklin County.

A few years after the first settlement had been made, Tecumseh, the great chief of the Shawnees, began planning for his great Indian confederacy to drive the white settlers out of the Mississippi Valley.

He made a trip through Southern Illinois to stir up the Indians against the white settlers.

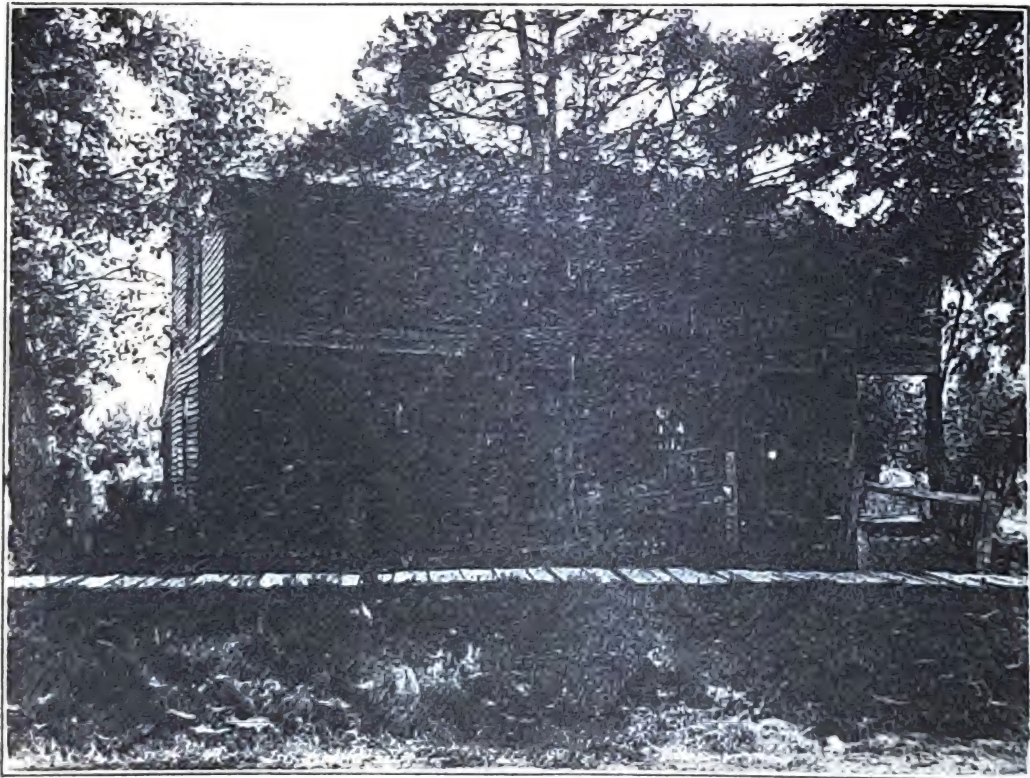
Gov. Ninian Edwards of the Territory of Illinois, sent out word to every settlement to build block houses or forts as a means of protection against the Indians.

So the Jordan settlement built a strong fort on what is now the farm of Capt. John Ing, and another on the edge of Williamson County. The latter fort was called Francis Jordan's Fort. Later when the town of Frankfort was started they gave it the name of Francis Jordan's Fort. The name Jordan was omitted, calling the place Francis' Fort, or Frank's Fort and still later Frankfort. From about 1812 to 1818 there were more people in the settlements around Frankfort than any other settlement in the county.



Charles H. Humphreys settled in Six Mile Township in 1811. Mr. Humphreys was a school teacher in Philadelphia and had come out to the country of Illinois to visit his brother, Edward Humphreys, who was registrar of the land office at Kaskaskia. The government wanted a ferry built on the Big Muddy River and offered a tract of land to Mr. Humphreys to build the ferry. He built the ferry in 1811 and made his settlement in Six Mile Township as a result of this.

Baker King settled in Goode Township near where the Keller mine is now located, in 1813. This was the third settlement in the county, as the leaders always brought other families with them. Chamberlain Hutson settled in Ewing Township in 1815. Herrin Taylor and his family, including nine boys, settled in Northern Township about 1815. Herrin seems to be the founder of the Taylor family in this county. Along with the Taylors were two Webb families. Eli and Lazarus Webb were the progenitors of the Webb family in the



OLD WALLAR TAVERN THOMPSONVILLE, ILLINOIS, ON OLD SHAWNEETOWN ROAD

county. About the same time came Jacob Phillips, the father of the Phillips family. There were five families in Northern Township in 1818 that have been there for 100 years. The Taylors, Webbs, Clarks, Phillips and Pages were there 100 years ago and you can find them there now. The Webbs are the most numerous.

John Browning was a hunter, and while on a hunting trip on the Big Muddy, discovered an ideal place for a settlement on a hill west of the river and later called Browning Hill. It was high ground, overlooking the surrounding country near the river and there was a fine spring of water at the foot of the hill.

He removed his family there about 1814, and soon other families settled near. The Jones, Harrisons, Hutsons and Kings formed a settlement. The settlement north of this place was long known as the Spring settlement on account of the numerous springs of water in the vicinity. John Browning built the old house that stands on the hill in 1814, and is probably the oldest house standing in the county. John Browning was a Baptist preacher and doubtless was the first preacher of his faith in the county. Through his efforts the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church was founded in 1829, and is the oldest Baptist Church in Franklin County.

About the year of 1817, Rev. John Launis a Methodist minister came into the eastern part of the county. With him were the Dillons, Clampets, and Tates, Sullivan and Summers. This settlement became known later as the Launies-Dillon settlement. It was in this settlement that the first school house in the county was erected. Also the first Methodist Church was organized in this neighborhood and called Mt. Etna. The records show this church was organized about 1822, through the efforts of Rev. John Launis, Braxton Parrish and the Rev. Hancock, a Revolutionary soldier. The families that were charter members of this church were the Launis, Tates, Sullivans, Summers, and Clampets. This church will soon



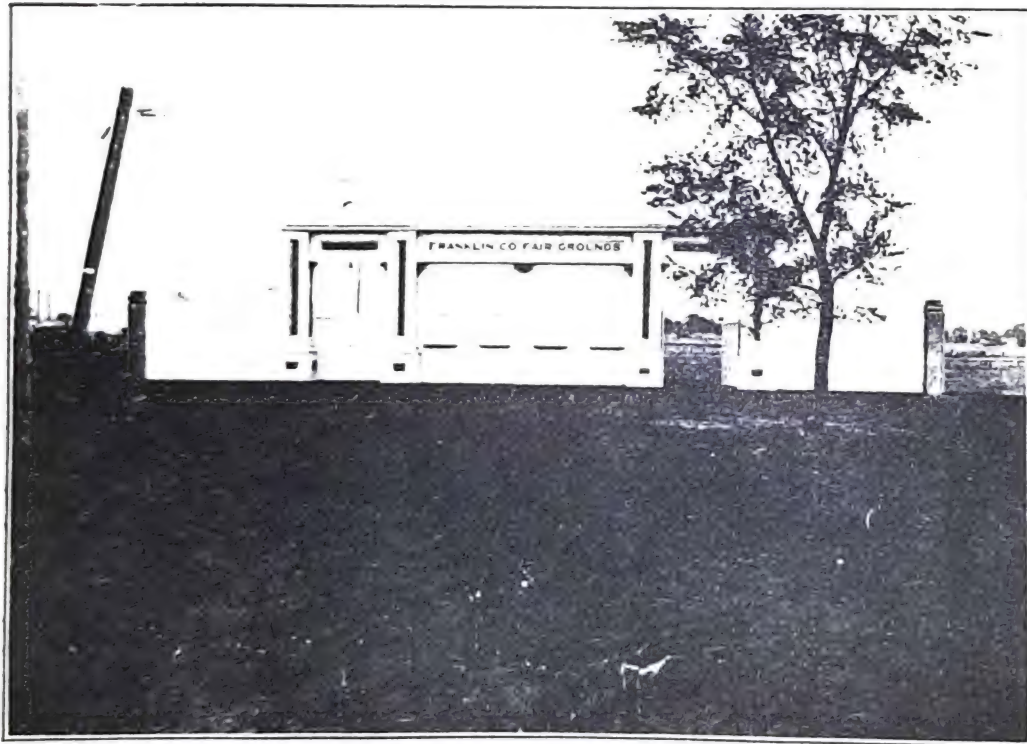
have weathered the storms and vicissitudes, incident of the century, for nearly 100 years.

Almost in the center of Eastern Township is Knob Prairie. In this vicinity came the McLeans and the Aikens to settle about 1818. The McLeans and Aikens were all very close kin. Robert McLean the head of the McLean family was a brother-in-law of James Aiken who settled on Knob Hill, and a father-in-law of James Aiken who settled northwest of Aiken. These two James Aikens were distinguished by Knob Jimmie and Squire Jimmie. Into this settlement came the Summers and Sullivans, about this same time, and for a century they have been neighbors and friends. Today these same families may be found in great numbers in this settlement. There were four soldiers of the War of 1812 that lived in this community, Edward Sullivan, Alex, Thomas and Levi Summers, and five Black Hawk soldiers, Aiken McLean, William Aiken, Walter S. Aiken, Noah and James Summers.



TYPE OF EARLY SETTLERS' HOME

Isham Harrison, a relation to William Henry Harrison who was president, came with his family to the vicinity of Christopher in about 1814 or 1815. He first settled near the present city of Christopher. His son, Lemuel Harrison, has been a noted character in the early history of the county. The Mulkeys, Tinsleys, Harrisons, Greenwoods, and Kirkpatrick's, were prominent families of the Tyrone Country west of Big Muddy.



FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS, BENTON, ILLINOIS



Major William Mooneyham, Franklin County's grand old man has lived to see many wonderful changes in conditions. He was born December 4, 1819 and has been a resident of Franklin County 80 years, coming here October 30, 1838. The following year he was made captain of the militia. In 1854 he was elected sheriff, collecting the taxes by virtue of his office and collected the first school taxes levied. He was re-elected in 1858.

Major Mooneyham cast his first vote for James K. Polk in 1844. He is the oldest Mason in the county and was a member of the 81st Regiment, Illinois Infantry, of the Civil War for three years. He has seven grandsons in the service.

Major Mooneyham was 21 years of age when his grandparents, Shadrach Mooneyham and Harkless Ogle, who served in the Revolutionary War, entered into rest. Thus Franklin County has a citizen who has heard in part the story of the Revolution from the lips of those who were participants in the great struggle.



## CHAPTER V.

### CHARACTER OF THE PIONEERS.

Of the 171 families in Franklin County at the time the state came into the Union and the county was organized in 1818, 90 percent of them were from the South

The early settlers of the county who came from the South, brought with them, a hospitality and sociability, that could not be excelled anywhere in the U. S. The typical Yankee possessed many good traits of character but the genuine hospitality and sociability of the people of the South was a great inheritance of which Franklin County received in her early days.

Franklin County is indebted to her early settlers for the gentle, Christian spirit that had been a great factor in moulding the character of the founders of Franklin County.

Many pioneers brought their religion with them to Illinois as well as their personal property.

They looked upon religion as necessary as anything they could possess, that would be useful to them in the trying times in the new county. Braxton Parrish gave one half of his money for a bible to take with him to Illinois. The early settlers—men and women—of this county stood for something, as a rule, they were genuine people, all wool and a yard wide. They were simon pure, not adulterated with deceit, hypocrisy or sham.

Quoting from the writings of Hon. Q. E. Browning, a descendant of one of the oldest families in the county, his tribute to the character of the early pioneers are here given :

“These early men were strong of limb, stout of heart and firm of purpose.

Their environment necessarily made them intense and rugged in all things. On the other hand their faith in the Divinity and His promise was absolute.

Society had not yet become so intoxicated with the spirit of commercialism. The ambitions of these men were to *Be* rather than to *Have*.

They were not distraught with the strange delusion which leads us to be proud of what we have, whereas in fact we have only borrowed from the common store. They would not forego the finer, higher, ennobling pleasure of whispering hope to the faint and discouraged, or of extending the hand of help to the fallen brother, for the fawning and cheap applause of the frivolous accord of the heaper of gold.

The pioneer women were the counterparts of these stalwart men. In storms they were oaks, in sunshine, flowers.

They loved the birds and their songs, but they did not envy them their plumage. They could enjoy a landscape without owning the land. Fads, frills and foibles did not interest, much less, enthrall them.

They preferred that their souls should be beautiful rather than their bodies. The supreme interest was in their homes, and their highest happiness was in motherhood. The childless wife was an object of pity or contempt.

Divorces were unknown. Employment, the infallible antidote for incompatibility and domestic ennui was always present. The night was never dark enough, or starless enough, the storm was never wild enough or fierce enough, the lurid arrows of ill fortune never flew thick enough or fast enough to drive their women from their husbands' sides. Joy, peace, and contentment and affection encompassed and enveloped their homes.

To be the descendants of such progenitors is a priceless heritage. Let us emulate their virtue and revere their memories. To paraphrase Coleridge:

"Their bones are dust,  
Their guns are rust,  
Their souls are with the Saints, we trust."

The dominant element of our population today is the



"Old American Stock" of Southern extraction. Southern ideas govern our social intercourse and Southern hospitality is dispersed.

The traveler passing through the county upon our public highways is always greeted with an affable "Good-day, Sir," and if he should stop at a farm house in quest of information he will be politely invited to "light and come in."

Refreshments will be offered him so cordially and unostentatiously that he at once concludes that he has found a county where kindness, chivalry and hospitality do not entirely belong to the ages that are past."

## CHAPTER VI.

### EARLY PUBLIC ROADS.

Kaskaskia and Shawneetown were the leading towns of Illinois in 1812. Shawneetown was a port of entry on the Ohio for emigrants from the east and south.

There was a demand for travel overland from Kaskaskia to Shawneetown and consequently, a public road was needed to connect these rival towns. The Territory of Illinois asked Congress for an appropriation for cutting out the shortest route road from Shawneetown on the Ohio to Kaskaskia on the Mississippi. Congress did not grant this request at this time; as our government was in war at the time. But in 1816, Congress granted the road and appropriated \$8,000.00 to have it surveyed and cut out. The road was cut out from Kaskaskia to Dements settlement fifty miles from Kaskaskia in 1817. Dement's settlement was where Plumfield is now in this county. The road was completed in 1819 after Franklin County was organized and Illinois had become a state.

There was no money for building bridges across the streams such as Little Muddy, Big Muddy and the Saline Creeks. The commissioners of the new county contracted with Samuel McClintock the progenitor of the McClintock family in this county to build a toll bridge across the Big Muddy where Plumfield is now.

This old road came across Six Mile Township, crossed Big Muddy at Plumfield through West Frankfort over Frankfort Hill, through Garret's Prairie by way of Fitt's Hill, Jordan Fork and Fancy Farm.

Houses were built for entertaining travelers as they passed through the wilderness. These places of entertainment were called taverns. Moses Garret kept one 3 miles east of Frankfort Heights, which place, for eight years, was the first

county seat of the new county. There were several taverns on this road through the county.

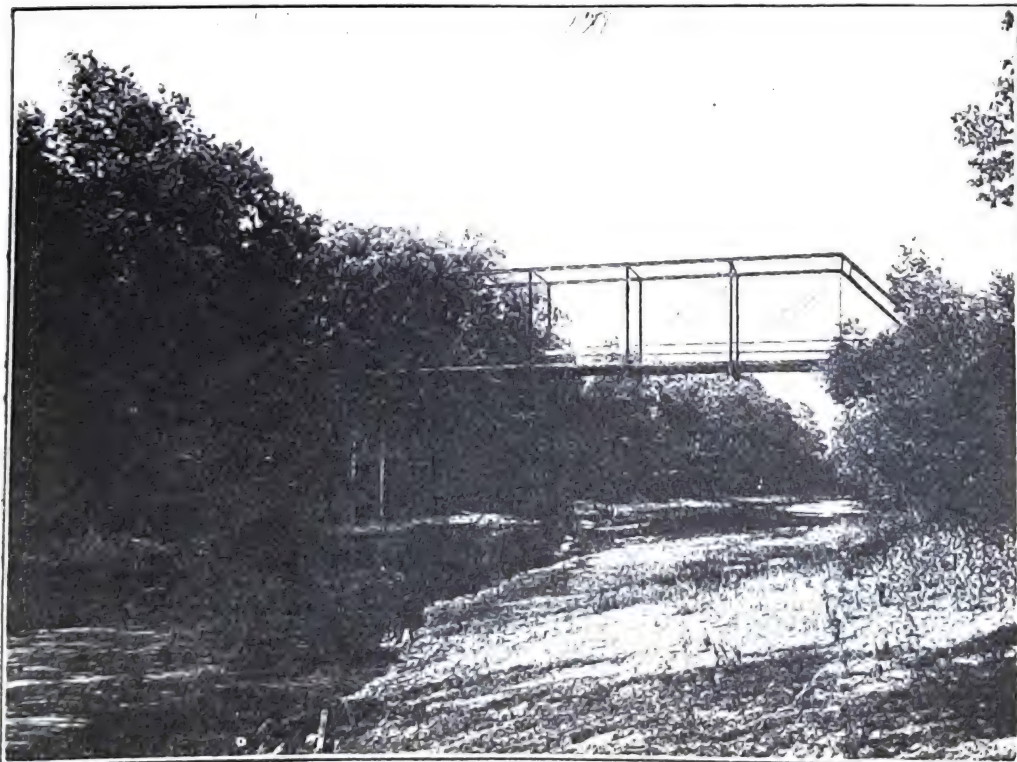
This road was the main thoroughfare for emigrants who came to the county from 1818 to 1840.

The Shawneetown end of this old road, ushered in more people that came into Franklin County, in an early day, than any other road.

The emigrants coming into the county over this road were largely from Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, or the Carolinas, carrying with them Southern ideas, and customs which later had great influence over the county in a political way.

This old road is now as old as the county. This year is the centennial for the road. It runs largely on the survey made by the government in 1817. In Cave Township the road has been changed some, but in the main it is as originally surveyed.

The St. Louis and Shawneetown road was later estab-



BIG MUDDY RIVER AND THE STEEL BRIDGE ACROSS IT. THIS IS THE LOCATION OF THE FIRST BRIDGE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY



lished. Kaskaskia soon lost its power when the state capital was moved to Vandalia and the town began to wane.

St. Louis soon outstripped Kaskaskia. There was a need of roads to St. Louis. So the Shawneetown road by way of Benton,—then the new county seat, and on to Du Quoin, and to St. Louis was established. The settlers of Franklin County did a great deal of trading with St. Louis going in caravans or groups and camping out on the way.

This road runs through the county very nearly as it did when first surveyed.

The Illinois Central Railroad was built through Du Quoin and Tamaroa so the trading with Shawneetown began to decrease and Du Quoin and Tamaroa trade increased.

Star route mail line was established between Benton and Du Quoin on the Du Quoin road.

The towns of McLeansboro and Frankfort were connected by a road that had a peculiar beginning.

A direct road running straight across the country not following a land line was the kind of road wanted. To get this direct line from McLeansboro to Frankfort they made use of the instinct in animal nature to survey the line. A mare and colt were selected to do the surveying. The colt was left at McLeansboro and the mare was taken to Frankfort and turned loose. She, following the instinct of nature, took the most direct line home to her colt. Men followed her, blazing the way by cutting on the trees. This was the method by which the road was surveyed. The road came down from Frankfort Hill diagonally across Crawford Prairie through Knob Prairie in Eastern Township, then through Knight's Prairie to McLeansboro. Some trace of this old road on the original surveyed line can plainly be seen to this day.

Before the days of Benton, Frankfort was the county seat and leading town of Central Southern Illinois. There was much travel between McLeansboro and Frankfort over this famous old road.



Another old road played a very conspicuous part in the development of Southern Illinois and Franklin County although it did not cross the county, yet came quite near so that many emigrants came into the county by way of this old road. This road is known as the "Old Goshen" road leading from the Edwardsville Country to Shawneetown. Edwardsville, northeast of East St. Louis a few miles, became a fast growing town, rivaling Shawneetown, Kaskaskia and Cahokia. This was in a fine farming country of the American bottom. The English people that settled near Edwardsville called their town "Goshen" and in going to Equality for salt made a road by way of Mt. Vernon, through Moore's Prairie, and Knight's Prairie to Equality. There is an old tradition handed down from the early settlers along this road about the people coming down from the north to buy corn in an early day. The frost having killed all the corn in the north, in the southern part of Illinois the corn was not hurt by frost. The people near Goshen had come down the Old Goshen road to Knight's Prairie west of McLeansboro where they stopped to stay over night with one of the early settlers by the name of Knight. The corn buyers accosted the early settler by using the Bible expression "We are the son of Jacob and have come into the land of Egypt to buy corn." From this expression we derived the cognomen of "The land of Egypt." Since then all Southern Illinois is known as "EGYPT" or "The land of Egypt."

## CHAPTER VII.

### LAND ENTRIES.

The first settlers of Franklin County did not own the land on which they had settled. Many located on their lands before the country was surveyed out. Consequently they did not know where the boundaries were.

The first entries of land were made in 1814. Frankfort, Cave and Eastern had entries made in that year.

In 1818 when the county was organized and when Illinois entered the Union as a state there were only about 16,000 acres in the county in which the settlers had a deed from the government or about one-seventeenth of all. Most of the land entered extends from Plumfield on the Big Muddy to Jordan's Fort, along the Kaskaskia and Shawneetown road.

The following is a list of persons who made the first entries and the date:

Name	Township	Date
Sarah Galloway. . . . .	Goode. . . . .	1831
Lewis Baker. . . . .	Goode. . . . .	1833
W. A. Docker. . . . .	Goode. . . . .	1833
Levi Silkwood. . . . .	Tyrone. . . . .	1831
John Kirkpatrick. . . . .	Tyrone. . . . .	1831
John M. Mulkey. . . . .	Tyrone. . . . .	1833
Crawford Burns. . . . .	Six Mile. . . . .	1829
Benj. Pope. . . . .	Six Mile. . . . .	1831
Solomon Snyder. . . . .	Six Mile. . . . .	1831
James T. Aiken. . . . .	Barren. . . . .	1831
John Sandusky. . . . .	Barren. . . . .	1831
Wm. Blanton. . . . .	Barren. . . . .	1833
A. U. Harrison. . . . .	Browning. . . . .	1817
John Browning. . . . .	Browning. . . . .	1819
Kinchling Odum. . . . .	Browning. . . . .	1819

Lewis Barker . . . . .	Denning . . . . .	1815
Francis Jordan . . . . .	Denning . . . . .	1816
David Dement . . . . .	Denning . . . . .	1816
Joseph Estes . . . . .	Ewing . . . . .	1818
William Frizzell . . . . .	Ewing . . . . .	1818
John Cox . . . . .	Ewing . . . . .	1818
A. D. Collins . . . . .	Benton . . . . .	1828
John R. Williams . . . . .	Benton . . . . .	1836
Martin Wooly . . . . .	Benton . . . . .	1836
Moses Garret . . . . .	Frankfort . . . . .	1814
Elijah Ewing . . . . .	Frankfort . . . . .	1814
Thomas Roberts . . . . .	Frankfort . . . . .	1814
Elijah Taylor . . . . .	Northern . . . . .	1815
Eli Webb . . . . .	Northern . . . . .	1816
Lazarus Webb . . . . .	Northern . . . . .	1816
Benj. C. Fisher . . . . .	Eastern . . . . .	1814
William Neil . . . . .	Eastern . . . . .	1818
James Aiken . . . . .	Eastern . . . . .	1830
Francis Jordan . . . . .	Cave . . . . .	1814
Isaac Moberly . . . . .	Cave . . . . .	1814
Alex McCreery . . . . .	Cave . . . . .	1814

The above list is taken from the records of the county. From the above you can see that the townships of Goode, Tyrone, Barrén and Six Mile did not have any land entered from the government at the time Illinois was admitted yet people had settled in these townships. A great many settlers lived on land all their life without taking a deed to same. Oftentimes someone would take a deed and get the place with the improvements. After Illinois entered the Union, Congress passed several laws donating to the state certain lands for certain purposes. The lands of Franklin County thus donated by government to state were classified as swamp land, school land and railroad land. The school land was the sixteenth section of each township.

There were 7,680 acres of land that were sold for the benefit of the schools.

The railroad land of Franklin was donated to Illinois for the building of railroads. The Illinois legislature passed a law incorporating the Illinois Central Railroad Company and granting the railroad land to it.

By this means the Illinois Central Railroad got in possession of 33,078 acres in this county distributed as follows: Goode 7,255 acres, Tyrone 8,802 acres, Six Mile 6,709 acres, Barren 3,447 acres, Browning 3,166 acres, Denning 3,699 acres. About all these lands now have been sold to individuals.

Congress passed a law granting to each of the several states of the Union the swamp land for the purpose of building levees and drains, and to reclaim said lands. The legislature of Illinois passed an act granting the swamp lands to the counties of the state for the purpose of constituting levees and drains and the balance of the land was to be distributed equally among the townships for educational purposes. The county acquired 33,700 acres of swamp land. The townships of the county had the following acres: Goode 380; Tyrone 480; Six Mile 1600; Barren 4360; Browning 5160; Denning 4600; Ewing 800; Benton 5040; Frankfort 4400; Northern 4000; Eastern 1960; Cave 920.

The county court of Franklin County appointed Levi Browning, drainage commissioner. Giving his bond at \$10,000.00, he began his work. The lands were surveyed and platted by E. T. Webb the county surveyor at that time. The commissioner began selling the lands as the law directed until all the lands were sold. The price ranging from 25 cents to \$4.25 per acre.

The amount of sales was \$20,466.83 and the money was spent making a levee across Big Muddy and other streams in the county and making drains for the purpose of reclaiming the lands.

The land entries were slow; in 1850 about one half of the



lands had been entered. Then Congress passed the "Bit Act" which reduced the price from \$1.25 per acre to 12½ cents per acre.

Then there was a rush to Shawneetown to enter land, and in a few years all the land was taken up.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### INDUSTRIES AMONG THE PIONEERS.

The pioneers of Franklin County were, as a rule, good hunters. With their faithful hunting dog and their trusty rifle, they could secure the necessary meat for the table. The skins of the animals they made into clothing or sold to the fur traders. The woods abounded with abundant game for the dextrous hunter, such as bear, deer, raccoons, mink, otter and beaver. On the prairies of Franklin County were countless herds of wild buffalo.

Wild bees lived in the trees and stored away their honey and wax.

The pioneers learned to hunt bees as well as to hunt for game. The wild honey and wax was a great source of revenue for the pioneer. It was taken to Shawneetown or Kaskaskia where it was shipped to New Orleans and exchanged for sugar, coffee and ammunition. In early days this territory was infested with wild hogs, which grew fat on the mast. The early settler would have a "hog killing" time hunting these swines, as oftentimes the hogs would turn on the dogs, the dogs running to their masters and their masters were compelled to take a tree for safety. This wild pork was dressed and hauled to Shawneetown then sold for \$1.50 to \$2.00 per hundred weight.

After building their huts the pioneers began their "clearing" getting ready for their crop, which was a few acres cultivated in tobacco, and corn and pumpkins. The tobacco furnished the entire family in chewing and smoking as the modern cigar and manufactured tobacco were unknown in those days.

The early inhabitants of Franklin County made their own clothing. The cotton and wool were carded, spun and woven into cloth, from which their clothing was made.

The good women of the early pioneer days were very dextrous in the use of the spinning wheel and loom. Oftentimes a pair of pants would be produced from the wool on the back of the sheep in 24 hours time.

It was more difficult to make the shoes than to make the clothing. The hide from the steer must first be tanned, rubbed, cut out, then put together. The shoes as well as the clothing, were rough, and not very sightly, yet they possessed the lasting qualities.

The bread of the early settler was made from corn chiefly, occasionally biscuit was made, as an "extra" on Sunday.

The primitive mill was a cavity made in a stump by burning, then scraping it clean. The shelled corn was placed in this. A pestle attached to a bending pole, which did the grinding or mashing. This made rough meal but was the best they could do as there were no mills nearer than Kaskaskia, fifty miles away.

The corn dough was placed in an oven skillet, where it was baked before the fire, or sometimes it was put on a board and baked before the hot fire. This kind of bread was called "Johnnie Cake." This rough corn bread and venison was the chief diet of our forefathers in this county, and yet not many cases of indigestion or appendicitis were ever heard of in those early days.

There were no stoves on which to cook their food. A skillet with lid, and a pot in which to boil their meat or porridge was the outfit for cooking, save cooking by roasting, in ashes or broiling over the fire.

The pioneer began to produce wheat, and wheat bread became common in the course of time.

Wheat growing in an early day was on a small scale only a few acres were sown to wheat. This wheat was cut by a reap hook. A kind of curved blade for cutting a small bunch of wheat at a stroke. The wheat was tied up in sheaves then horses were used to thresh out the grains by constantly tread-

ing upon it. The chaff, straw, wheat and some dirt were shoveled up and fanned till the wheat was clean. Then the wheat was sacked and thrown across a horse, and so to the mill they would go.

The early mills for grinding wheat or corn were burr horse mills, the power furnished by a horse or horses.

Oftentimes the mill boy would be compelled to wait his turn, and frequently would stay a day or two before he could get his grinding.

The next kind of mill in the process of development was the water mill. The first water mill built in Franklin County, was in 1834 near Macedonia, on Middle Fork Creek, by Jacob Phillips the founder of the Phillips family in the county. A water mill was built on Big Muddy at the Hillen's Ford about 1838 and later one was built on Middle Fork about 5 miles east of Benton 1842 by John Ewing. There is some evidence of these early mills left to be seen to this day.

The first steam mill in the county was built by Augustus Adams on the Hickman branch near Benton in 1850.

The primitive methods of producing wheat and grinding same caused wheat bread to be a rare thing,—almost a luxury. Biscuit once a week, (on Sunday), was the limitation put on wheat bread. But when the binder and steam thresher were invented wheat growing in the county was the most important part of their agriculture, then biscuit came once every day and finally three times a day if wanted, until recently, when another limitation is placed on wheat bread due to the effects of the war.

The pioneers of this county began farming on a small scale. They brought with them horses and cattle and later introduced sheep. The hogs were found here in the wild state, from which we domesticated and bred up to our present stock of hogs.

Cattle were used to draw the wagons and plows. The cattle, sheep and hogs would run on the range. The fields



were fenced with a zigzag rail fence about 8 or 9 rails high including the ground pole and sometimes the fence would have stakes and riders. The range cattle and sheep were given a mark by cutting the ear in a certain shape or figure so that the owner could identify them wherever they were found. This mark was registered with the county clerk at a cost of 12½ cents. By this system of identification the pioneers could get together their stock when shelter for the winter had to be provided. Doubtless, there are many citizens of the county who well remember gathering up the sheep and cattle off the wild range and identifying them by the mark on their ear.

The branding system was never used in this county to any extent. Cattle often were afflicted with the disease called "Black tongue" or "Milk sick."

The horse has been the beast of burden largely in the county. He was hitched to the plow with very crude and primitive harness. The horse collar was made by stuffing corn shucks and straw into a long bag. This was thrown across the horse's neck for a collar. The hames were home made. They were made by splitting a slab off of a tree which extended down the curve of the root. The root of the tree made the curve in the hames. The plow handles were made in the same way, also a wooden plow mould was made in the same manner.

If the harness got out of repair the ever-ready jack knife was used in procuring hickory bark to mend the broken parts. Hickory bark was ever the pioneer's friend.

Sugar and salt were two articles of food needed by the hardy pioneer which was very difficult to get. It was many miles to New Orleans, the sugar market. Maple sugar was made by boiling the sap of the maple into a syrup and then to a sugar.

Sorghum molasses was used as a substitute for sugar in many ways. Sugar was sent by boats to Shawneetown, Kaskaskia or St. Louis then hauled out to the consumer.

## CHAPTER IX.

SOCIETY, MANNER OF LIVING OF THE EARLY  
SETTLERS, FROM A FAMOUS LECTURE OF  
REV. BRAXTON PARRISH, DELIVERED AT M.  
E. CHURCH IN BENTON ON MONDAY EVEN-  
ING, AUGUST 3, 1874.

Ladies and gentlemen:—I confess that I stand before you tonight feeling considerably more embarrassment than I usually experience, and that embarrassment is greatly heightened by the reflection that nothing could be more dissimilar than the education, dress and manners of audience, and the rough but big hearted pioneers with whom my earlier years were passed, and of whose experience I propose to speak. Permit me, at the outset, to say that I am here by the special request of the president of the Franklin County Literary Society, and that I am very sure that I cannot, in the limited time I will occupy, by any means speak fully on all the topics mentioned in the announcement of this address in your local paper. I will give you my own experiences and observations, and by those you may get a very tolerable idea of the troubles that attended that hardy race of men and women who came here in my day; and you may, also, learn something of the trials of all the first settlers in a new country.

I was born in North Carolina on the 24th day of October, 1795. When but an infant, my parents moved to South Carolina, in what was called the Newberry district. We remained there until 1811 or 1812. To that place cling my first recollections, and there my youthful mind received its first impressions. When I first knew my father he was, as matters then went, well off, and was deputy sheriff of the Newberry district.

He was a very generous man and could not refuse his friends such favors as they might ask. He went their securi-

ties, generally, and as the result, he was broken up. Somewhat disheartened, he sold out, with a view of going to Louisiana. My mother did not want to go there, and finally after much entreaty, prevailed on him to go back to North Carolina. In 1815, my father died, leaving a widow and eight children, and I the eldest. I never knew what became of the estate. In 1819, I left the state. These facts will give you an idea of the chances I had for an education. We had no free schools then, and but little interest was felt upon the subject of education. It was supposed to be the duty of every man to educate his own children, and the general impression seemed to prevail that it was entirely superfluous to educate the children of the poorer classes to any degree whatever. My own education in schools, during life, only amounted to three months, and that time was devoted to the old Dillworth spelling book. After my father's death I worked for my mother and sisters. The first year I worked for wages, and for the entire year's labor received \$100.00, and during that time I only lost three days after deducting half Saturdays that I walked home, ten miles. This \$100.00 went to the support of my mother's family, which with the labor of my brother, Thos. Parrish, who recently died in Jackson County, Illinois, and that of the other children, made them a living. After working that year for the \$100.00 I bought my mother a small farm in Lincoln County, N. C., and settled her and the children upon it. The next two years I worked for shares of crop, all of which went to the support of my mother and family. I left my crop on the field the last year for them, and hired to a man for \$7.00 per month, to drive a team from North Carolina to Boone's Lick in Missouri, as I desired to see the country and do what I could for myself. When we got to Reedieville, near Stone River in Tennessee, the winter set in very hard, and the family concluded to remain there all winter. My employer paid me off. I bought what was then called a wallet, being a piece of cloth sewed up with an opening in the center like saddle bags. In



this wallet I placed what little extra clothing I had, and with but very little money started with my wallet on my shoulder afoot for Boone's Lick, my original destination. As I walked along, the reflection came upon me, that here I was a young man, twenty-four years of age, with the whole world before me in which to make a living, my mother and children comfortably situated, while the old man, my late employer, with a large family of girls, and very short of means, was encamped in a strange country, exposed to the hardships and rigor of a long winter. So strong did my sympathies work upon me, that, after an hour's walk I turned about and went back to the old man and voluntarily gave him all the money I had except \$5.00. The old man shed tears from the depth of his gratitude, and I felt that indeed "it is more blessed to give than to receive." I then went down Stone River, about three miles, and got employment at a sawmill for the winter. It had an old fashioned water mill with an upright saw. The next summer I worked in the vicinity for a carpenter named John Farr, and received in payment for the summer's work a horse. That fall, after getting the horse, I set in to work at the still-house of Joseph Ballow near Reedieville. Then we did not think it any harm to make liquor and drink it too, in moderate quantities, and nobody drank to excess in those days, but we did not make such poison as they manufacture nowadays. During the fall of 1820, while at work at the still-house, Margaret Knox, a young widow, and sister-in-law of my employer, came from Franklin County, Illinois, to visit him, in company with her father, John Thompson, and, strange to tell, we, that winter, got bewitched with one another, and on May 12th, 1821, were married. I had no property in the world but a change of clothing and a horse, saddle and bridle, and what little effects she had were back in Franklin County, Illinois. For the reasons then that her father, mother, relatives and property were here, she wanted to come to Illinois. I had seen the constitution of the state, and being disgusted with



slavery, I wanted a home in a free state, and consented to move here.

I came to this county on horse back, and hunted over the entire territory which now composes the counties of Franklin and Williamson, to find some sort of a carriage to take back to bring my wife here, but I could find nothing less than a four-horse wagon. I had no team to take such a vehicle, and if I had, we had nothing back there to haul in it. So I put a saddle and bridle on a horse which my wife had here and led it back to where I left her. We packed up what goods we had, put them and two little boys that my wife had by a former husband, on the two horses. My wife and I walked and led the horses, thus burdened, every foot of the way to Illinois.

I was a recent convert to religion, but had no bible. I inquired of my wife if they had any bibles in Illinois. She said no. Coming through Nashville, Tenn., on our way here, I saw the sign of a book store. I thought I would go in there, but said to my wife, there was no use, as I had no money to spare to buy one. She said "go in and price them," which I did. The cheapest one was \$2.50, such a one as you could now get for 25c. I was afraid to buy it for fear our money would give out. She said "Buy it and trust to providence for means to get to Illinois." We would not have had money to get there, but for the fact that on the other side of the Ohio River we were overtaken by a man named Heath, an entire stranger. From his conversation I soon learned that he was a recent professor of religion, also, and strong in the cause of his Master.

When we came to part he insisted that we should go with him and rest a day or two; that the Lord had blessed him with plenty, and he wanted us to go and share it. We went with him, as he lived only a short distance from our direct route; remained with him three days and nights, and when we got ready to leave, he filled our wallets with bread, meat and honey, and came with us to the river and paid our ferryage across the Ohio to the Illinois shore. When we left I thought very

strongly of my wife's remark in Nashville to "buy the bible and trust to providence." When we got as far as the neighborhood of Alexander McCreery in this county, we met McCreery in the road. He was well acquainted with my wife and she introduced me to him as her husband. I then had my bible under my arm. McCreery asked me many questions as to my future intentions. McCreery was then for the country, a rich man, but was something of a scoffer of religion and religious people. A short time after, McCreery, in going through the neighborhood collecting his interest, etc., said he had met a poor devil coming into this country to make a living with a bible under his arm, and he thought he had better have a grubbing hoe on his shoulder. The remark soon came to my wife's ears and she was much exercised about it, but I pacified her by telling her that that was a very natural conclusion for a worldly minded man to come to. When I arrived here I had but 18¾ cents in money. It troubled me to know how to dispose of it to the best advantage, more than any money has ever troubled me since. We settled about six miles east of where Benton now is, in the winter of 1821-2; went right into the woods and cut logs and hauled them upon what was then called a "lizard," a kind of dray made out of the forms of a tree. After getting the logs dragged up, the next thing was to get them put up. We invited in the whole neighborhood, far and near, and got the services of six women and four men. The men kept up the corners and the women lifted the logs up to them, and we did an admirable job. We put the walls cabin fashion, weighted down the clapboard roof with poles, cut openings for door and fireplace, all in one day. The next day we moved into it, on the frozen earth among the chips and snow. Soon raised a wooden chimney daubed with mud, as high as the mantel piece. We split trees and made puncheons for a floor, laid it down and then we felt pretty comfortable. My wife says: "Now I can spin on this floor," and by the light of the fireplace, I took the cards and she the

wheel and we soon had three cuts of cotton yarn spun. We then had prayer, and in that rude structure, erected in the woods, surrounded by howling wolves and panthers, we went to bed, slept soundly and were supremely happy, such happiness as comes to but few of us in a lifetime. After this we built the chimney out with sticks and mud, and daubed the cracks of the cabin. My wife carrying me all the mixed mud for that purpose. While we were working it, it snowed so hard that I could hardly see her to the clay hole. I wanted to quit, but she said no, and we finished it that night. We made a door shutter out of clapboards, fastening them on with wooden pins, as nails were not then to be had nearer than sixty miles. We made a table out of slabs split from a walnut tree. Our bedstead was nothing more than a platform made on forked sticks, and all our furniture and utensils were of a like rude character, such as we could make ourselves with the aid of an auger and an axe. And yet we had plenty to eat. The country was full of game, bear, deer, turkey, as well as panthers, wolves and wildcats, and wild honey was found in great abundance. We could hear the wolves howling every night. The first sow I ever owned was killed by a bear near my dooryard. I once chased a bear over the very site of this town. This was, even in that day a fine country. Our cattle were fat winter and summer, without any care of feeding them. In the winter the lowlands and bottoms were covered with a grass we called "winter grass," which sustained our stock in fine condition during the most rigorous weather. Peavine, grass and weeds were then so thick that we could trail a bear or horse all day. There was no underbrush in the woods except now and then a little patch which we called "bear-roughs," where the fire had not reached.

As I said, we had plenty of everything to eat, but how to get money was the problem, we had none. Notes were given, not for money, but for raccoon skins or articles of personal property. I remember that I once went down to Dorris' store



at Old Frankfort, to get some domestic for my wife, who was sick. I told Dorris our condition; that we had been sick and got bare of clothing, and asked him how much I could pay him for the cloth we needed so much. He asked me, "are you a hunter?" I said, "No sir." Says he, "Will you hunt?" I said, "Why do you want to know that?" "Well," says he, "If you will hunt and let me have all the skins and deer hams you get, you can have what you want." I agreed to his proposition and bought twenty-four yards of cotton domestic at 50c a yard. When I took it home I told my wife how I got it. She shed tears and said we were in debt, that we could never get out. This affected me somewhat, but I told her that we did not get the goods before we needed them, and I thought there would be some way provided to pay for them. This was in the winter and the weather was very severe. The next morning I was up before daylight to go hunting. When I reached Middle Fork Creek it was frozen over hard, but I found an airhole, or open space in the ice, and while looking at it I spied an otter stick his head up, before I could shoot, it dodged under the ice. The water was clear and I could see it swimming under the ice. I followed it down the creek until I saw it go into a hole in the bank under the water. I then went back home and got some tools and my dogs and went digging, and soon unearthed and captured three large otters. The skins were then worth \$4.00 apiece. So that you see I paid for the cloth I had bought by one hunt before breakfast. I took the skins to my wife and told her we would now get out of debt. She said she would never distrust providence again. At this time I could not read or write intelligently, nor cipher any, but, by the light of the fireplace at night, after working hard all day, I tried to improve myself in reading, writing and arithmetic, and by perseverance in this way, I got a fair knowledge of these branches, though, of course, by no means perfect.

I cleared my own farm, cut and split the rails and carried them on my shoulder and made a fence, as I had no wagon



to haul them. There were no plows to be had nearer than Shawneetown, fifty miles away, and I had no money to buy one had they been nearer. I borrowed a "bull tongue" plow of my father-in-law,—stocked it myself. It had no iron about it except the plow and bolt,—had a wooden clevis, wooden singletree, etc. For harness I had shuck collar, hickory bark lines. With this rigging I broke up my ground, and covered my corn with a cooper's adze, having no better tool for the purpose. One night a trifling dog had eaten up my deer-skin backband. I went into the house and got my gun to shoot him to get his hide to make another backband, but the dog seemed to know what was up and got away from me, so I had to make another deer-skin one. With these implements we made corn in abundance.

The nearest mill in the country was on the Wabash River near where Carmi now is. I once took a load of corn to that mill and had it ground. We had no wheat in those days. On our return we upset in a small creek which was swollen by a freshet and lost most of our meal. We then concluded we would go back there no more, and had to resort to other means to make meal. For the most part we beat out our meal in wooden mortars, but finally I rigged up a kind of hand mill of my own out of a couple of old stones that I procured down at the old Jordan Fort in Williamson County. The only objection I had to the arrangement was that I had to grind before eating. It was either grind or no bread. During one summer the meal that we ground on our little hand mill got to tasting bad and it was a long time before we found out what the matter was. At first we attributed it to the corn, but upon taking up the stone we found furrows of them full of white wood lice that had gone in between them to eat the meal. They had been shortening our bread for a long time. I have heard since that these lice are very good for the yellow jaundice, and I suppose they must be, for we have not to this day been troubled with that disease.

Among the most prominent settlers when I came to this county, were Alexander McCreery, Henry Yost, Nathaniel Jones, Nathan Clampet, John Crawford, James Aiken, Herrin Taylor and two old men named Webb, living in Webb's Prairie. West of Benton lived John Browning and Mr. Hutson. Frizell and Estus lived in Frizell's Prairie, and Michael Rawling's in this prairie above, which now bears his name, and in Garrett's Prairie lived the man whose name it bears, and in Frankfort a few families, together with Simon Hubbard, who was then circuit clerk, county clerk and probate judge, and I believe, also master in chancery. We were all peaceable, friendly and happy, and neighbored from John Browning's to Frizell's Prairie. We all strove, by all means in our power, to assist each other in business necessarily, attending log rollings and house raisings. Most of these men have passed away but their descendants are worthy their noble sires, and I feel the highest degree of satisfaction in saying that those descendants are, to this day, the pride of our country. Take the Webbs, Brownings, Crawfords and other names I mentioned, and you will find them today the most respected of our citizens, who have kept pace with all the advancement of this progressive age, and I feel happy in the further reflection that all of my own family have been, and are esteemed as honorable men and women.

The first Methodist class meeting was formed at Mr. Nathan Clampet's at the place Dr. Carter now lives, in 1822, and was composed of seven persons. We had rails for seats and one occasion when more came than we expected, Mr. Crawford rolled some large pumpkins and made seats of them. I can remember when the first school house was built. My children went to the Dillon settlement school, a distance of four miles. When I was elected judge, about 1832, the county was \$300.00 in debt, and we thought that terrible. We had no court house then, nor was there a bridge in the county, and it was a question of how to raise funds and pay the debt

and build a court house. We finally raised the taxes from 20 to 25c on the \$100.00, which created much dissatisfaction.

You no doubt wonder why the early settlers all made their farms on the high and poorer lands. The reason is obvious. The low grounds were too wet and miry, and on the prairies the green headed flies were so numerous and severe that the cattle could not live on them. At sunup they would rush from the prairies to the woods, and up above here in the prairie, Mr. Rawlings at certain seasons had to build fires to keep the flies from eating up his cattle.

How wonderfully the country has improved, none but the old pioneers can fully realize. Today we are surrounded by all the advantages attendant upon a high state of culture, and more than average degree of wealth. Yet occasionally we see an eastern man who turns up his nose at us and calls this a rough country. He ought to remember that we made this country, while the one he came from was made to his hands a century before he was born. This reminds me of the story I have heard of the eastern woman, who in answer to an inquiry as to the character of this country, said: "It was a paradise for men and dogs, but h—I for women and oxen."

The experience I have detailed is not my own alone, but that, in a degree, of all the early settlers here. Now you have school houses, churches and all the attendant blessings of a highly cultivated people, and we only refer to the past, that our appreciation of the present may be heightened and that when we hear others sneer at our limited advancement, looking back to our starting place, we may see how far we have really traveled upon the road of progress, and how profoundly we have been moved by the impulses of the age. In one thing I think we have not advanced. In the old time, if a man committed a crime, we all turned out to hunt him, a scoundrel was kicked out of decent society. That is not always true now, I am sorry to say. But the old man will not cavil with the age that in so many respects is superior to his own. My friends,



tomorrow I leave this country to go to my daughter's, and may never see you again, but my kindest wishes will be ever with you. Do not entirely forget the old man, but give him such remembrances as you think his character as a man, a pioneer and a citizen entitle him to.



## CHAPTER X.

### SLAVERY IN ILLINOIS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY.

Philip Renault, a Frenchman, introduced negro slavery into the Territory of Illinois just one hundred years after it was introduced into Virginia. The purpose of introducing slaves into Illinois was to work them in the supposed gold mines, but the mines being a failure, they were scattered among the settlers.

In the organization of the Northwest Territory in 1787, there was a provision in it that was placed there through the influence of Thos. Jefferson. Rev. James Lemon who immigrated from Virginia to Illinois in 1794 came with the distinct purpose of assisting in making the states that would be carved out of the Northwest Territory free. He claimed he made a compact with Mr. Jefferson, to do all in his power to prevent slavery from entering these states.

Rev. Lemon was a Baptist preacher and began organizing churches in Illinois as early as 1796. He organized the first Baptist Church north of the Ohio River at New Design in the year above mentioned.

He was the champion of the Anti-Slavery party in the framing of the Constitution in 1818, and the credit of Illinois being a free state should be given to him.

Rev. Lemon organized many Baptist churches between the years of 1796 and 1818, and also organized the first Anti-Slavery Society or League in the Illinois country.

Most of the settlers of Southern Illinois were from the south, and consequently favored slavery in Illinois.

Illinois was admitted as a free state, yet slavery was allowed in the Salt Reservation.

Prior to the admission of Illinois, indentured slavery existed in Illinois Territory, as many settlers in Illinois had

brought their slaves with them to the new state. As the law of the Ordinance of 1787 prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory they gave bond that they would set them free at the end of a certain period of time. This was called indentured slavery.

In 1820, Missouri was admitted into the Union as a slave state. She asked for admission in 1818 at the same time Illinois asked, but her constitution contained a slavery clause, consequently, there was much opposition to her admission. After more than two years of wrangling and bitter denunciation a compromise was offered by Henry Clay which was agreed upon. Senator Jesse B. Thomas of Illinois presented the points or terms in the compromise.

This discussion in Congress caused the agitation of the slavery question in Illinois. A vote was to be taken for or against a convention to revise our state constitution so as a slavery clause could be inserted. The election of 1824, for the calling of the convention was announced eighteen months in advance of the date. Gov. Coles had been elected governor in 1822, the second governor of the state. He was opposed to the convention and agreed to spend all his salary for the term to oppose the convention. Daniel P. Cook, the county's good friend, was with him, also Rev. J. M. Peck, a Baptist preacher who had lately come into the state. These champions of freedom traversed the state campaigning against the calling of the convention.

The election came as stated above and the result was as follows by counties:

	For Convention.	Against Convention.
Alexander . . . . .	75	51
Bond . . . . .	63	240
Clark . . . . .	31	116
Crawford . . . . .	134	262
Edgar . . . . .	3	234
Edwards . . . . .	189	391

Fayette.....	125	121
Franklin.....	170	113
Fulton.....	5	60
Gallatin.....	597	133
Greene.....	164	379
Hamilton.....	173	85
Jackson.....	180	93
Jefferson.....	99	43
Johnson.....	74	74
Lawrence.....	158	261
Madison.....	351	563
Marion.....	45	52
Monroe.....	141	196
Montgomery.....	74	90
Morgan.....	42	432
Pike.....	19	165
Pope.....	273	124
Randolph.....	357	284
Sangamon.....	153	722
St. Clair.....	408	506
Union.....	213	240
Washington.....	112	173
Wayne.....	189	111
White.....	355	326
Total.....	4972	6640

These counties settled up by people from the slave states voted for the convention very strong. Franklin, true to instinct, voted for the convention 170 to 113.

Had the results of the election been reversed what a change in the result of later events.

Illinois would have been a slave state which would probably cast its lot with the South in the Civil War. Lincoln could not have been elected president with his anti-slavery ideas. With Illinois casting her lot with the South doubtless



Grant and Logan would have gone with their state as Robt. E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson did with Virginia. Without the services of Lincoln, Grant and Logan and Illinois and all the other states that were neutral going over to the South our government would have been torn asunder.

We people of this later day feel very grateful that the result though very close was on the side of liberty, and that the great Lincoln was given to the world to proclaim "That a government of the people, for the people and by the people shall not perish from the earth."

At the time the census was first taken for statehood in 1818, Franklin County showed she had fifteen slaves and 52 negroes that were free. The fifteen slaves mentioned above were supposed to be indentured slaves.

The families having indentured slaves were the Jordans, McCreerys, Crawfords, Clarks, and Harrisons.

When the state was admitted, a great many of these slaves were taken to Missouri and sold and some were held there till the election of 1824 which would decide the fate of slavery in Illinois, expecting to return to Illinois if the vote favored slavery. Some were brought back anyway and set free, among those were the slaves of McCreerys, Crawfords and Clarks.

After the death of John McCreery, his son, Alexander, went to Missouri and brought back an old negro woman that his father owned, and bought her husband Richmond Inge out of slavery for \$300.00 settled them upon eighty acres of land which they paid for by their hard earnings. A settlement of negroes in this locality resulted, and today there are many negroes in this settlement that is familiarly called "Africa."

The history of the county is not complete without mentioning its experience with the underground railroad. Dr. John McLean, of Chicago, who was reared in Franklin County gives the following interesting story: "When I was a boy about ten years of age, I visited my uncle, by the name of Jack Ewing about two miles north of Benton in Rawling's



Prairie. One early morning I was awakened by the barking of dogs as if baying something. My uncle got up and went out to see what was the matter. He saw a negro boy on the high fence up out of reach of the barking dogs. My uncle brought the run-away negro into the house and discovered that the colored boy had been directed to his house by a friend who was in sympathy with run-away-slaves. My uncle took the negro boy to Benton and turned him over to the sheriff as there was a heavy penalty for assisting a fugitive to escape to Canada yet he sympathized with the negro boy."

The sheriff placed the negro boy in jail and advertised the run-away negro, after so many days the owner failed to call for his property. The boy was declared "a free man of color." Walter S. Aiken hired the boy to work for him, taking him to Springfield, Illinois, where he secured a position for him at the State Capitol. The negro lived to be an old man, and died only a few years ago in the city almost a stone's throw of the home of the "Great Emancipator."

The growth of Franklin County from 1824 to 1860 was remarkable and the growth in sentiment for Freedom was also remarkable.

The people as a whole in Franklin County were not quite ready to accept Lincoln's doctrine on the slavery question or his doctrine of democracy in the election of 1860.

The vote for Lincoln for president in this county was 228 to 1391 for Douglas yet when the Civil War came on, and Douglas supporting the Union, more than 1100 Franklin County soldiers rallied around Old Glory and shouted "Freedom forever."

The county will always regret the stigma of shame made by the disloyal acts of some of her citizens by doing all they could to aid slavery and disunion, during the progress of the Civil War.

The order of the Knights of the Golden Circles is not a credit to the good name, now of loyal Franklin County, but cannot be referred to without some feeling of regret.

## CHAPTER XI.

### NORTHERN AND EWING.

Northern Township in Franklin County, is in the north-eastern corner of the county. It took its name because of the fact that it originally represented the northern portion of the county.

Herrin Taylor, Eli and Lazarus Webb, doubtless were the first settlers in the Northern Township, settling about 1815.

The large prairie in Northern and Ewing Townships was named after the Webb family.

The Middle Fork Baptist Church was established in 1818—one hundred years ago.

This was originally an arm of the Sugar Camp Church located in Jefferson County. The charter members of this old church were Chester Carpenter and wife, Eli Webb and wife, Lazarus Webb and wife, Richard Hill and wife, and John Manis and wife.

This church can truly celebrate its one-hundredth anniversary this centennial year. This church is the oldest church in the county.

Jacob Phillips and Jacob Clark settled near Macedonia about 1817. Jacob Phillips established the first water mill in Franklin County in the year 1834, on Middle Fork Creek, near Macedonia. The location of this famous old mill was on the farm now owned by Robert H. Johnson.

The northeast corner of the township was settled by emigrants from Pennsylvania, and were called the "Pennsylvania Dutch Settlement." The McAfoos, Richesons, Sinks, Kerns, Hollowells, Pilsons and Jewarts were of this stock of people.

The Carlton settlement was south of the Pennsylvania Dutch Settlement..

The Johnsons, Vises, and Fishers settled in and around Macedonia.

Macedonia is a lively village for both Hamilton and Franklin Counties. It has a population of about 400 people. It has a strong bank, that is doing a large volume of business.

H. C. Vise has been an active merchant in the town for nearly forty years.

Rev. Hosea Vise, a pioneer Baptist preacher has been the means of organizing more Baptist churches in Southern Illinois than any other man.

The Johnsons were early settlers of Macedonia, in fact, the village was first called Johnsville then later, Macedonia. These Johnsons were neighbors of Andrew Johnson—the president, in Tennessee. It is said Andrew Johnson was a tailor, and made the wedding suit for John K. Johnson. The Bains, Barnfields and Robersons occupied the southwest portion of the township.

The schools of Northern Township are: Snowflake, Sugar Camp, Taylor Hill, Webb's Prairie, Independence, Macedonia, Accommodation, New Harmony, West Point, and Stockwell. The churches are: Methodist—Macedonia and Walnut Grove; Baptist—Macedonia, Frisco and Liberty; Free Baptist—Stockwell; United Brethren—Oak Hill; Regular Baptist—Middle Fork.

Webb's Hill has been a noted commercial place of business. John S. Webb opened a store many years ago, and at his death his son continued the business. The firm now is A. N. Webb and Son. They have, perhaps, the largest country store in Southern Illinois and are doing a large volume of business.

Northern Township has very progressive farmers who are rapidly developing that part of the county in an agricultural way.

The township is nominally Republican, but not very strong, for their policy is always to vote for a good man re-



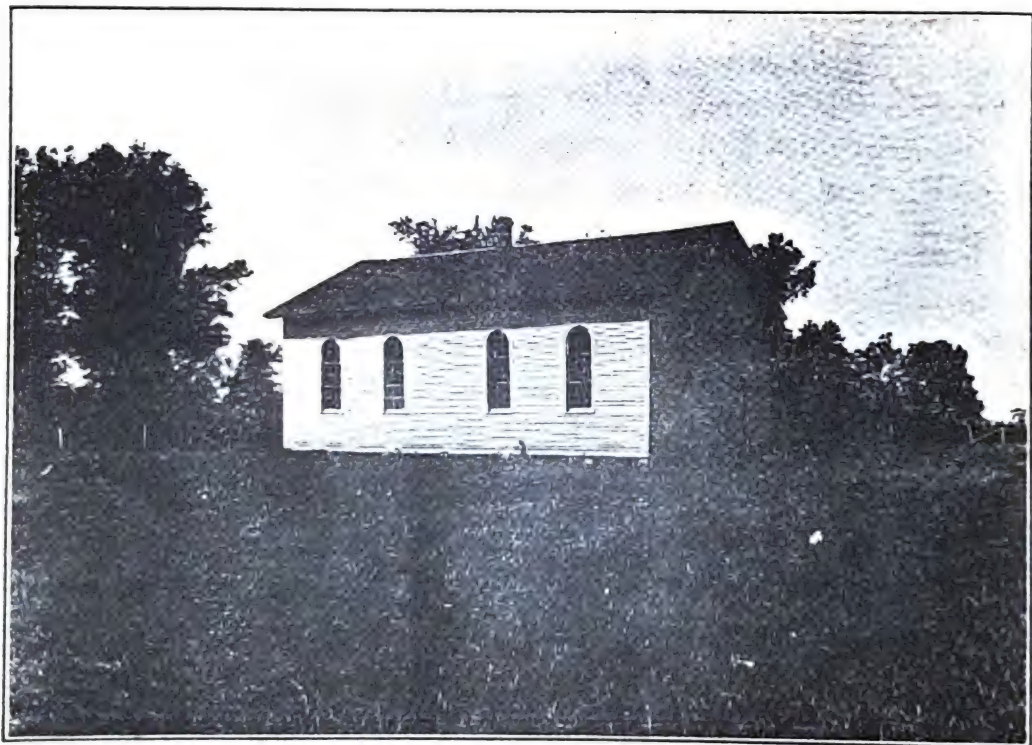
ardless of his political affiliation. Andrew Phillips, a grandson of Jacob Phillips the early pioneer, is the present supervisor.

### EWING TOWNSHIP.

Ewing Township lies west of Northern. It took its name from the postoffice, first established in Rawling's Prairie in Benton Township, then later the office was moved to upper Ewing as it was called, as Richard Richerson had established woolen mills at this point. This was the original Ewing town. Later, when Ewing College was located, one mile south of this, a postoffice was established there. This college town grew rapidly while the college was in its hey-day.

There is an experiment farm at Ewing that is doing a very important work experimenting on Franklin County soils, showing what treatment may be given our soils so as to produce large crops, as it did in the days of the virgin soil.

Chauibertain Hutson, Frizzel, John Page and a family by the name of Estes seem to have been the first comers into



THE MIDDLE FORK CHURCH, OLDEST CHURCH IN FRANKLIN COUNTY



Ewing Township. Later, the Hills, Webbs, Richersons, Links, Dorris, Beatys, Kings, Clarks, Spencers, Winemillers, Pierces, Dungys, Burtons, Baxters, Manis, Days, Floros, Hamiltons, Paynes, Phillips, Brittons and others occupied the township and were largely instrumental in making it what it is to-day.

The progressive spirit of the farmers is working wonders in an agricultural way.

Ewing has the following school districts: Hickory Hill, Franklin, Gun Prairie, Whittington, Shiloh, Long Prairie, and Oak Hill. The churches are as follows: Baptist—Ewing, Williams Chapel and Gun Prairie; Methodist—Ewing, Whittington, Shiloh and Union; Free Baptist—Rescue; Christian—Long Prairie.

Whittington is a thriving railroad town on the C. & E. I. R. R. It was founded by W. W. Whittington when the railroad was built. Whittington has a bank, several stores, a graded school and a church. Ewing and Whittington are connected by a hard road, the first made in the county.



L. W. FISHER FARM, MACEDONIA, ILLINOIS

Politically, Ewing is Democratic, but mixed tickets are frequently elected. Riley Burton is the present supervisor.

### AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF WILLIAM J. WHITTINGTON.

I was born May 26, 1841 in Benton Township, Franklin County, Illinois.

My father's name was William C. who was a son of Azariah, who was a son of Benjamin Whittington. My ancestors immigrated to this country from England during Colonial times and settled in Virginia and the Carolinas, where the family spread out over the country.

The branch from which I sprang went to Georgia, thence to Tennessee where my father was born, May 19th, 1815 and came to Franklin County, Illinois, in the year 1829, where he lived until his death, Aug. 26, 1881.

My mother's name was Lucinda Moore, born and reared in Illinois, died in March, 1893 at Benton, Illinois. My father and mother were married about 1837.

My parents were poor but honest, hard working people. They had eight children as follows: Elijah, born in 1839, died 1840; William J., Mary, Elizabeth, Rhodes A., John W., Isabel and Thomas M. As said above my parents were poor, and school facilities in my earlier days were not good, however, at about eight years of age, my father sent me to school for about three months to James Swofford. The schoolhouse was a mere cabin with a fireplace in one end and the benches were small trees or logs split open and legs put in. No windows, however, but I learned pretty fast and by the time the school was out I could spell to "baker" in "Webster's Old Blue Back Speller" very well.

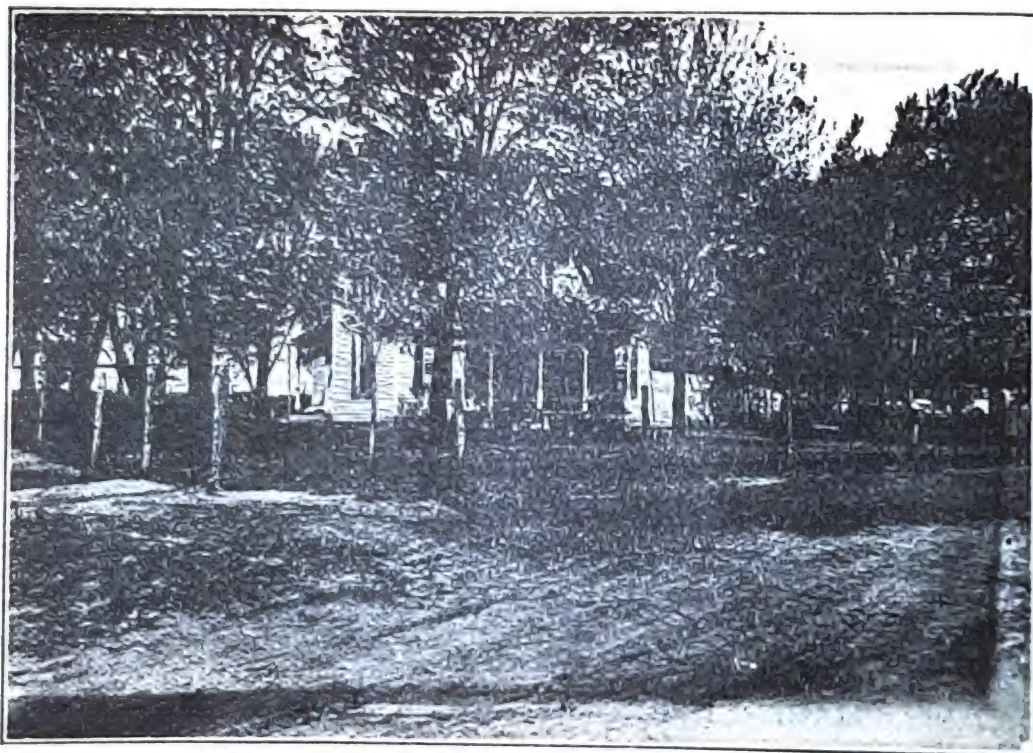
The next summer I went to the same house to school but the teacher was John Barnfield, an Englishman. I remember of hearing him tell that it took him twenty-two weeks to cross the Atlantic Ocean, for he came in a sail ship. I also remem-



ber of hearing him say that he never had seen a piece of corn bread in his life until he came to America and when he tried to eat it he thought it would skin his throat. I have heard him say that he would rather eat bread made from wheat bran than to eat the best of corn bread. I went to school in turn to J. J. Dollins, Lewis McCasland, William Moore, Thomas Moore, Lewis Phillips, George W. Peck (not the author of Peck's Bad Boy), and Carroll Moore. In my young days I took great delight in fishing and it was pretty hard for my father to keep me from going fishing of Sundays. However, if my father ever whipped me it was before I could remember, not since. Mother, however, used to crack my head with the spinning stick for bothering her wheel, by getting my head too close to the thread while being twisted, and having my hair twisted with the thread. I remember once when a small boy, crawling between two feather beds in summertime and going to sleep and when mother found me I was nearly cooked. I can also remember of being at a reaping, that is where they cut wheat with reap hooks. It was quite different then, to what it is now. We had no machinery to harvest grain and grass, and the mills for grinding grain were the old horse mill and the watermills. I have many a time ridden on a sack of corn, on a horse with the gears on, 8 or 10 miles to mill in cold weather, and maybe then when I got there, would have to wait some times all day for my turn to come to grind, with nothing to eat but corn roasted or parched in hot ashes. We had no clock in those days, and I call to mind once when milling was to be done, that father thought it near daylight, got up and made a fire, and mother got breakfast, and we started to old Uncle Joshua Britton's Horsemill in the upper end of Long Prairie. When we got there, there was a man grinding and when he was done we hitched up and ground out our turn—father acting as miller—and we got back home by sun up, and it was cold frozen weather too.

In 1854 we had a drouth so severe that there was little or no corn raised, and as there was no wheat—or very little—

raised, then the people were badly put to it for bread. There was a good mast that year, that is the forest trees were full of acorns and hickory nuts and as the woods was full of hogs, they got fat for pork. The farms then were small and no two joined together, and as there were better crops North the I. C. R. R. was put in running order that year, we could get corn by going to the railroad for it if we could get the money. Lots of the men worked on the railroad for money to buy bread, and with an open winter, and the fodder corn, the people carried most of their stock through all right. Most everybody sowed a little wheat that fall and it was an excellent crop. I remember father helped Uncle Tom Moore tramp out his wheat—the only crop of wheat raised in the whole neighborhood that year—and got about three bushels of wheat and we sowed it where we had cut off our corn stalks, and brushed it in as we had no harrow. We harvested 65 bushels of wheat from it, a part of which we beat out with flails, the balance, however, we had threshed with a thresher

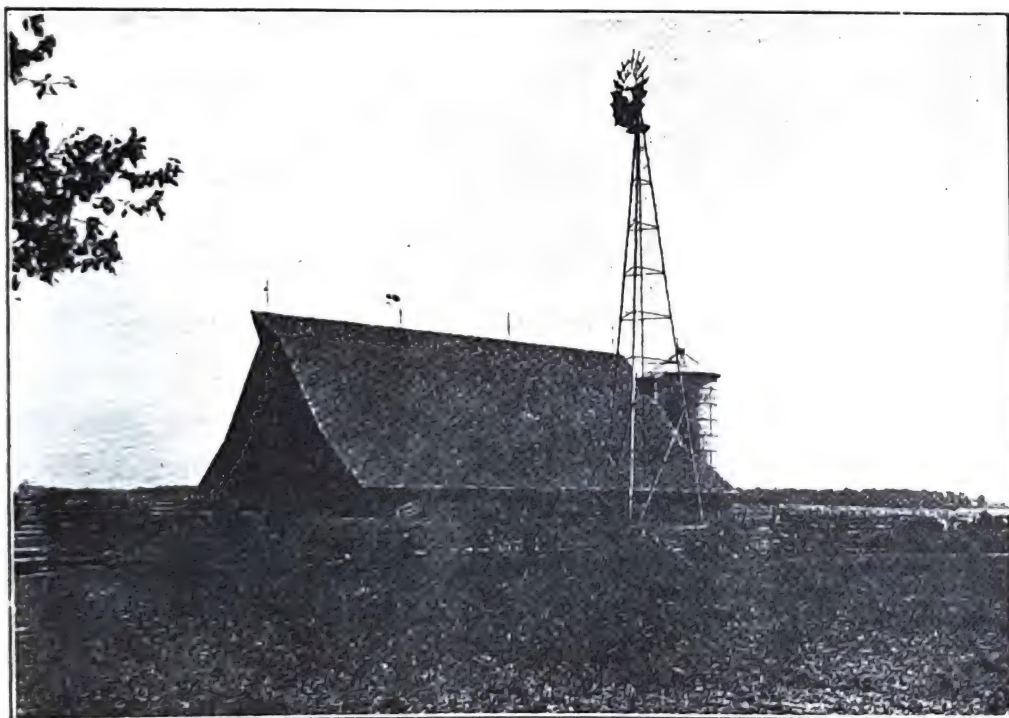


RESIDENCE JOE WEBB, WEBB'S HILL, ILLINOIS



that did not clean it. We had to fan it. The year 1855 was an excellent crop year and as people were not in debt much they soon got over the crop failure. It did not take much money then to run a family like it does now. Our mothers made most of the cloth for our clothing and the farmers' wives and daughters did not try to dress as well as the bankers' wife and daughters did then, and while the people generally had plenty to eat it was much plainer than now. Before 1855, wheat bread was a rare luxury, canned fruits, rolled oats, and granulated sugar were unknown. A young couple getting married could set up to house keeping alright for five dollars. Lots of them did with less. A skillet and lid, a meal sieve, a dinner pot, two cups and saucers, two plates and a couple of knives and forks were not to be grinned at for a start. However, people seemed to enjoy themselves then as well as now, and in fact, I believe better for their wants were fewer and consequently were easier gratified.

Perhaps it would not be out of place here to tell what a biscuit cost in those days, I mean before 1856. The wheat



STOCK BARN JOE WEBB, WEBB'S HILL, ILLINOIS

was cut with scythe and cradle, tramped out with horses or flailed out with flails, and in the absence of fan mills it was separated from the chaff by slowly pouring out of a vessel held above your head in a strong wind, or in the absence of natural wind, two men would take a common bed sheet and double it in the middle, the long way and pull it tight at top and with the lower hands give it a whipping motion towards the grain that was being slowly spilled out on the ground as above noted. After being separated from the chaff it was hand picked to free it from dirt—gravel and small pieces of horse dung, if it had been tramped out. Then to the mill where it was ground without further cleaning, being bolted by hand. I have eaten biscuits that you could feel the dirt in your teeth, but I will say there was not a peck or two of them found cold in the safe or shelf as then called. I remember it was about 1852 or '53 that father sold a nice two-year-old heifer for six dollars and got a barrel of Belleville flour—\$5.00 per barrel—and a jug of molasses and 50 cents worth of sugar fixing for a two-day meeting. Oh, but didn't we riot in good things to eat, and speaking of meeting, it seems like that the Christian people enjoyed themselves then better than now, for there was no church nearer our place than Benton; probably not over a half dozen professed Christians in our whole settlement, yet, they fixed a place at Uncle Joe Weston's—now the James Hobbs' Farm—for a two-day meeting to commence on Friday night, and by Saturday night it was "boiling" so to speak, mourners praying, Christians shouting, and dogs barking, made a racket that interested me greatly.

But to return to the family. My grandfather was a gallant soldier under Andrew Jackson at New Orleans and I used to love to sit and hear him relate his experiences in that war, and doubtless from what I learned from him had something to do in causing me to enlist in my country's service, for as soon as I was old enough to read the history of my country I became a strong patriot. Our family as far back as I can

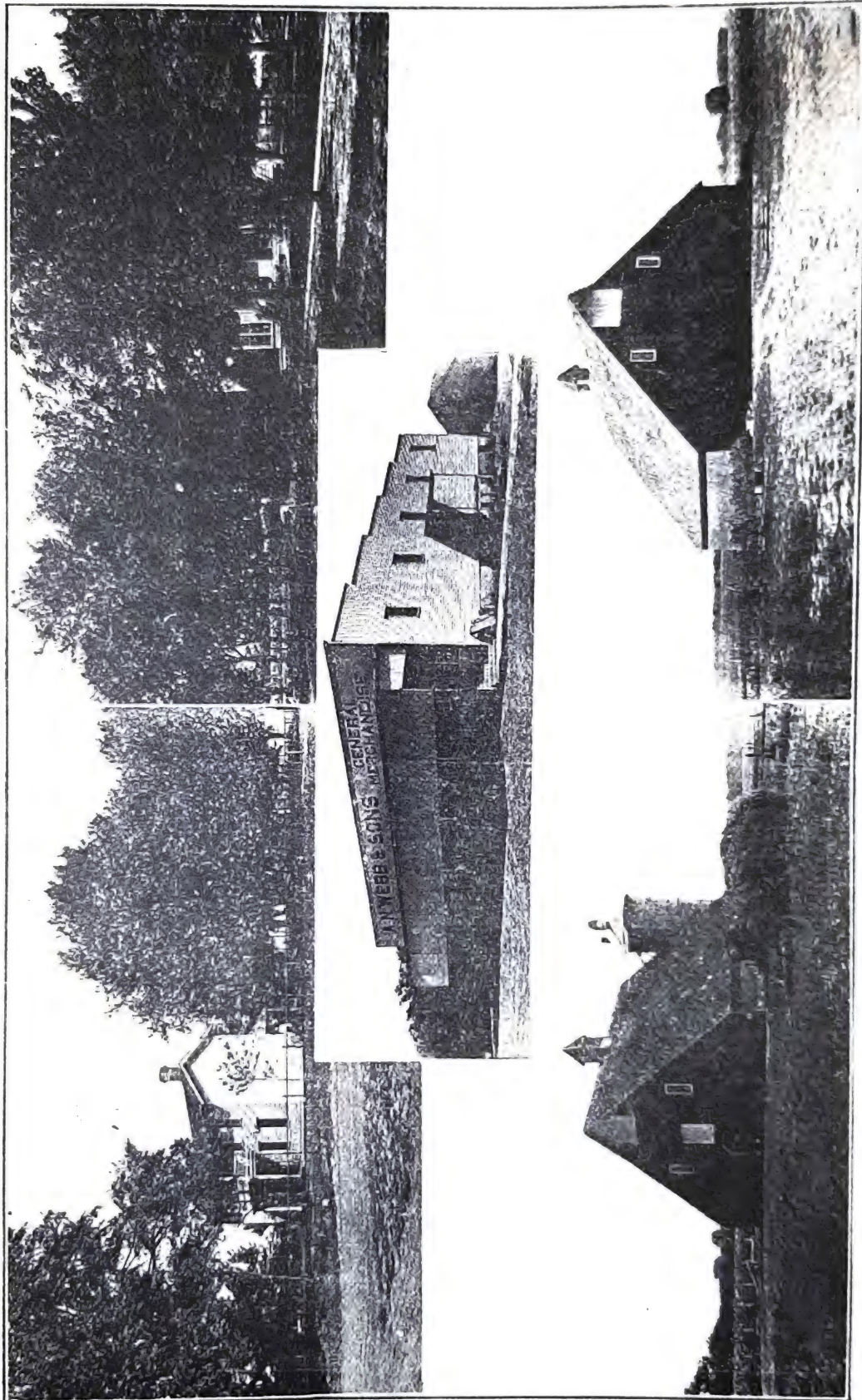


trace, was Democratic, my father voting that ticket up to 1862, when he quit it and voted the Republican ticket the rest of his life. Of course I was a Democrat because "Dad" was. I was a strong believer in "The Little Giant," Stephen A. Douglas. Lewis Whittington—my uncle—and myself put up the first flag in this county with Douglas' name on it. But after the election in 1860—I was not old enough to vote—I began to see that the Southern Democrats caused Lincoln's election for the purpose of an excuse to disrupt the Union and that it was likely that trouble would come to our country, and that it was the duty of all patriots of all political faiths to support the government by words and deeds, so it took me but a short time to make up my mind which side I should support in the spring of 1861. I hired to James W. Moore to work three months at eleven dollars per month and was to get paid as I needed it, but owing to the unsettled conditions of the country and hard times, he could pay me but little. I had no clothes fit to wear in company, and all I got of my three months' work to buy clothing was one pair of brogan or coarse shoes, two hickory pants—or cloth to make them rather. So when my time was up with him he paid me off in trade as follows: to pay \$28.00, I got a good cow 8 years old at \$11.00; a nice two-year-old heifer at \$9.00, and his note due in six months for eight dollars. I gave the note and heifer to father and left the cow with him until I came home from the army in 1864.

August 15th, 1861, I enlisted in a company being raised in Benton, but owing to a disagreement in its organization—two men wanting to be captain—it failed to organize, but on Sept. 16th, 1861, some twenty-five men from Franklin County, among whom I was one, went to Cairo, Illinois, and joined Co. I, 31st Regt. Illinois Volunteers, Col. John A. Logan commanding. Carroll Moore and Riley Moore—uncles of mine—went with us.

My experience as a soldier I presume was about that of the average soldier. I never had any trouble with my superior





RESIDENCE A. N. WEBB, WEBB'S HILL, ILLINOIS  
 STOCK BARN A. N. WEBB & SONS  
 RESIDENCE SIDNEY WEBB, WEBB'S HILL, ILLINOIS  
 STOCK BARN A. N. WEBB & SONS

officers or my fellow soldiers, was never punished for anything while out, and never missed but two roll calls without permission while I was out, and one of these times I was asleep in my bunk, the other I was out on a pass and the order for noon call was issued after I left camp. My first battle was at Belmont, Nov. 7, 1861, and in other battles as in order named, Ft. Henry Feb. 6th, Ft. Donelson Feb. 12-16, Spring 1862, was in the siege of Corinth, Miss., was at Corinth in Oct. 1862, with army in Grant's campaign through Miss., in Winter 1862-3, at Battle of Thomson's Hill May 1st, 1863, at Bayou Ferry, May 3, at Baker's Creek May 12, at Jackson May 14-15, at Champion Hills May 16th, in siege of Vicksburg from May 19th to July 4th, when the Confederate army surrendered in the battle 22nd July, 1864, at Atlanta, Ga., where I was captured and taken to Andersonville, Ga., a prisoner of war where I remained until the 17th day of Sept., when I was removed to Lovejoys Station where I was duly exchanged and mustered out of service one day after my term of enlistment had expired. And I want to say here that the most beautiful thing I ever saw was THAT GLORIOUS OLD FLAG, the Star Spangled Banner, and the uniform of the American soldier. Notwithstanding I came out of the service broken in health I have never regretted the service I rendered my country and if called on to name the proud acts of my life I should name the day of enlistment in the service of my country.

While nature was sinking in silence to rest,  
The last gleams of daylight shone dim in the West,  
In deep meditation, I wandered my feet over fields  
Bright by pale moon's light, in lonely retreat.

While passing a garden I paused to hear a voice  
Faint, though plainly of one that was there  
The voice of the sufferer affected my heart  
While pleading in anguish the poor sinner's part.

I listened a moment and turned me to see  
    What man of compassion the stranger might be  
I saw him low, kneeling all on the cold ground  
    The loveliest being that ever was found.

So deep was his sorrow, so fervent his prayer  
    All down over his bosom rolled sweat, blood and tears  
I went to behold him, I asked his name  
    He answered 'tis Jesus, from Heaven I came.

I am thy redeemer for thee I must die,  
    The cup is most bitter but cannot pass by  
Your sins like a mountain are laid upon me  
    And all this deep anguish I suffer for thee.



## CHAPTER XII.

### BARREN AND GOODE TOWNSHIPS.

Barren Township lies west of Ewing Township. It was named Barren on account of the condition of the territory. It was very thinly settled and had so much brush and waste land, that it was named Barren. The Big Muddy River flows through the township and renders a large area of the township unfit for farming. John Sandusky is said to be the first settler of the township.

Timothy, Boyles, McFatrige, Elkins, Martins, Phillips, Quillmans, Kirkpatrick, Cockrums, were early settlers.

The township boasts the distinction of having a very large coal mine at Keller, which employs a great many miners.

Barren, though greatly retarded by the Big Muddy bottom, has excellent farm lands.

The leading families who have had a part in the development of Barren from the barren waste of land, are the Cockrums, Kirkpatricks, Elkins, Jones, Mallorys, Quillmans, Johnstons, Kirks, Franklins, Deputys, Samples, Browns, Harrisons, Eubanks, Kings, Freemons, Cooks, Martins, Paynes, Gallows and others.

Barren Township has the distinction of having a great city on paper, that was never built. It is not generally known, but a long time ago a scheme was hatched for building a great city in Franklin County. The Centennial Committee of 1876 gives the following history: "In 1840, Zodac Casey of Mt. Vernon, conceived the idea of building a city in Franklin County and employed a man by the name of Perry as surveyor, and they surveyed out and laid off a town in section 14, township 5, range 2, on the Big Muddy River, and called it Portland. They made fine plats and maps of the city showing the location of the most important buildings, the river, streets leading to it,

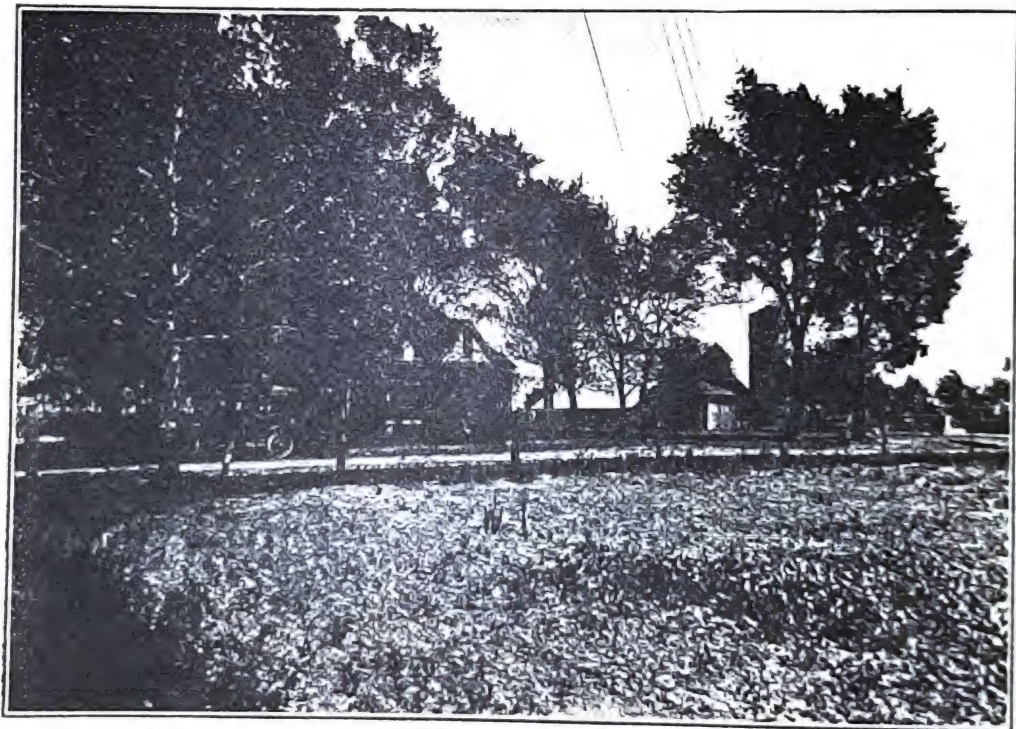
and also showing the city was located at the head of navigation of Big Muddy.

They put the lots on the market and sold a good many of them to eastern capitalists, realizing about \$4,000 out of this speculation.

Portland still lives upon our county records, and in the memory only of those who bought town lots but nowhere else, occupied by crawfish, frogs and tadpoles.

The south side of Barren Township, west of Big Muddy, is known as part of the Spring settlement, and the south part of the township east of Big Muddy has been known as the "Diggins," which was the haunts of the celebrated "Joab" of old.

The churches of Barren are: Baptist—Horse Prairie, and Palestine; Free Baptist—Palestine and Hazel Dell. The schools of Barren are: King College, Red, McGlassen, Hazel Dell, Keller and Martin.



D. HOUSE FARM, BARREN TOWNSHIP, BENTON, ILLINOIS

The country trading points in Barren are : Cypher's Store and Palestine.

Politically, Barren is Democratic and the present supervisor is J. A. Freeman.

### GOODE.

Goode is just west of Barren and is in the northwest corner of the county. Goode Township received its name from one of the first families that came into the township. Baker King settled in Barren Township in 1813, and is said to be the third settlement made in the county.

Benjamin Goode, Robert M. Galloway, Adkins Greenwood, seem from the records to be early settlers of the township.

The Little Muddy River is the western boundary between Franklin and Perry instead of the 3rd principal meridian as was formerly the case. Goode Township is not a full township as several sections west of Little Muddy and east of the 3rd principal meridian belongs to Perry County.

The C. B. & Q. railroad runs through the township and on this railroad is located a very progressive city, called Sesser. Sesser is a city of about 3,000, and was started when the C. B. & Q. was built. Sesser has two mines near it, which is the greatest cause of the city's rapid growth.

Sesser has a very strong bank, two lumber yards and several large stores. At this writing Sesser seems to be forging to the front and is taking its position among the large cities of the county.

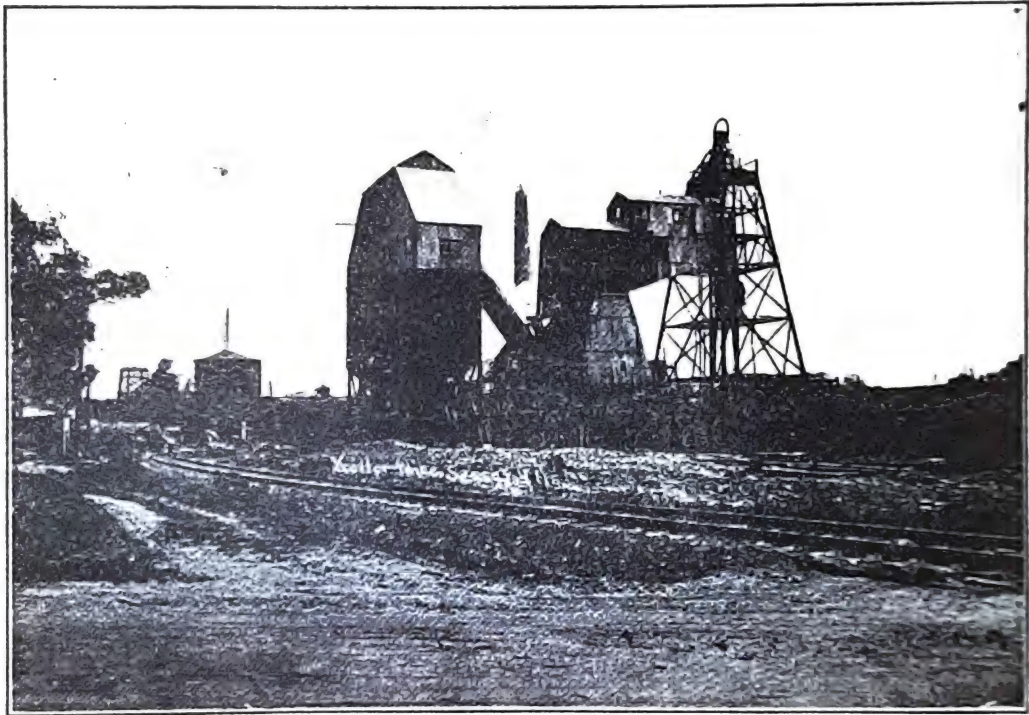
The township has splendid farms and up-to-date farmers to manage them. There are more silos in Goode Township than in any township in the county.

The schools of Goode Township are: White Oak, Mt. Tabor, Bear Point, East Center, West Center, and Sesser. The churches are: Methodist—Sesser; Baptist—Sesser; Free



Baptist—Bear Point; Southern Methodist—Howels Chapel;  
Catholic—Sesser.

Political complexion of Goode Township is slightly Republican. The political parties divide the people very near equal. The present supervisor is Wm. Willis.



KELLER MINE, SESSER, ILLINOIS

## CHAPTER XIII.

### TYRONE TOWNSHIP.

Tyrone Township lies south of Goode and joins Perry County on the west. The name Tyrone was selected as the name of the township when it was first organized. The name was taken from the name of an old steamboat that plied on the waters of the Mississippi River. Charles Tinsley was captain of this steamboat for many years and being an early settler and a man of influence, the name of his steamboat was voted as the name of the township.

John Kirkpatrick seems to have been the first settler in the township, settling on what is now the Reid farm on Little Muddy Creek, in 1818. Barzilla Silkwood and the Tinsleys came soon afterwards, so likewise did the Mulkeys.

Old Mulkeytown sprung into existence in a very early day; the trading point took its name from the Mulkey family. John Mulkey put up the first store about 1835. The Mulkeys have been very prominent in the history of the county. Judge Mulkey, who became very prominent as a jurist, sprang from this family of Mulkeys in the county.

The Mulkeys and John Kirkpatrick were related. They held religious meetings at the home of John Kirkpatrick soon after his coming to Franklin County in 1818.

As a result of these meetings, a church was organized in about 1823, which became known as the "Christian Church," being the first organized in the state of Illinois. For nearly a century the Mulkeys and Kirkpatricks have been identified with this old church. From this church's influence more than eleven Christian churches have been organized.

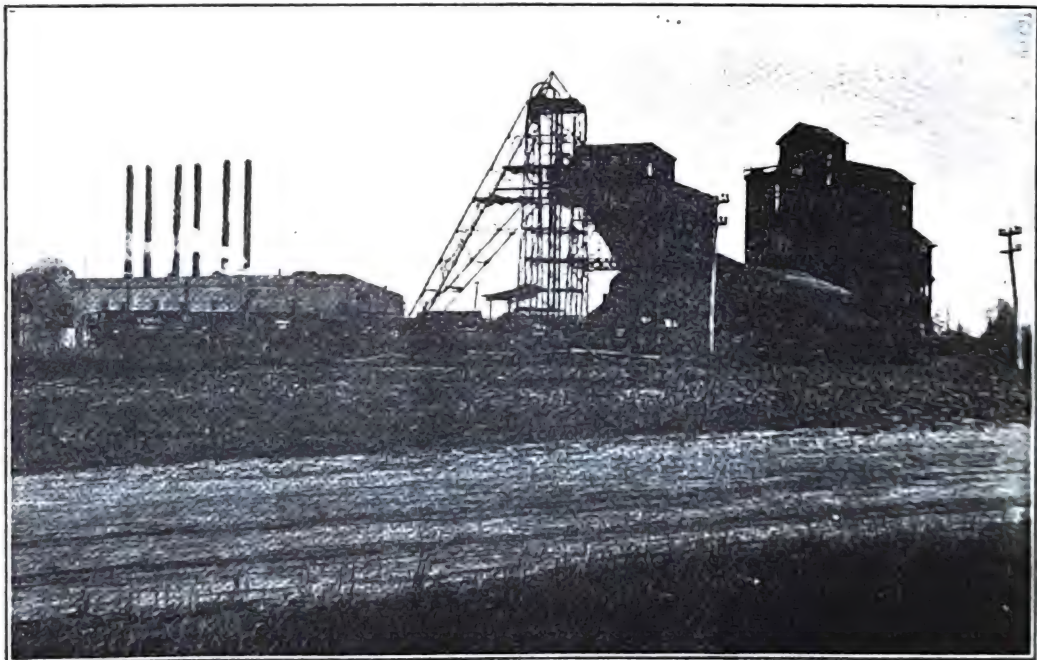
Later the Harrisons, Bayless, Prices, Plumlees, Rogers, Means, Davis, Swishers, Greenwoods, Arteberrys, Dees, Tefferkellers, McClellands, Snyders, Capelands, Reids, Keonigs,

Hills, Browns, Faggs, Eubanks, Ethertons, Moyers, and Cook families came into the township and Tyrone township began to develop rapidly.

What is known now as the I. C. R. R. was built through the county in 1879-80. Isham Harrison had part of his farm laid out into town lots, soon new Mulkeytown became a thriving village. Mulkeytown has not been a mushroom town, but has had a steady growth, the citizenship of the staid old town has been of a high character, standing for good schools and good moral citizenship. The people of the vicinity of Mulkeytown have ever been characterized as a church-going people.

In the eastern part of Tyrone and in Browning Township, settled a family of people destined to play a very important part in the history of the county. This was the Harrison family. They seem to have been related to the Virginia stock of Harrisons, and of close kin to William Henry Harrison of "Tippecanoe fame" who became president.

The founder of the Harrison clan in this county was Isham Harrison who, coming into the county about 1814, settled southeast of what is now the city of Christopher.



OLD BEN MINING COMPANY, CHRISTOPHER, ILLINOIS



Isham Harrison was shut up in Jordan Fort during the Indian trouble of 1812. He, like John Browning, selected a site on the west of Big Muddy for his place of settlement.

Along with him two grown sons came and settled near by. When Illinois had almost reached statehood and Franklin County had been organized, Isham Harrison was sent to Kaskaskia, then the capital, to help frame the first Constitution of Illinois. The greatest question in the convention was the slavery question. Harrison, though a slave owner, stood against a slavery clause in our constitution. On Aug. 26, the convention had finished its work. The Constitution of Illinois was never ratified by the people.

Lemuel Harrison, a son of Isham Harrison, was the first surveyor and county commissioner of the county. He surveyed out the first town on Frankfort Hill. His two sons, Isham and Christopher, were the founders of the two largest towns in Tyrone—Christopher and Mulkeytown.

Christopher Harrison, a son of Lemuel R. Harrison, was one of the 49 dying of cholera and was buried at Independence, Mo. His cousin was with him and went on to California, but returned in a short time and married the widow of his cousin.

Christopher Harrison owned land where the city of Christopher is now located. His two sons, F. O. and Sydney, had the town named Christopher in honor of their father.

The town did not grow fast at first. Bolliver Farris put up the first store, then later sold to Walker Bros., who continued the store. Then came Horace Shepherd, who became a partner of Farris. Mr. Shepherd as an original boomer of Christopher has been with the city during all its growth, he having died a short time ago.

In the early days of Christopher the postmaster would carry the mail to the train and most of the citizens of the town would accompany him to see the "cars come in." Many jokes were made on Christopher in those early days but ere long

the staid old town took on a new life. Coal was located and mines developed. An energetic bunch of real estate men began to push Christopher and soon it was a fast growing town.

The building of the C. B. & Q. Railroad and the great coal development has transformed the little village of Christopher into one of the best cities in the county. Christopher has four large coal mines lying near, with an output that is enormous. The population of Christopher is about 8,000.

Tyrone has the following schools: Robtown, Cane Creek, Blue Grass, Long Branch, Mulkeytown, Arkansas, Christopher, Norty City, Valier. The churches of the township are: Baptist—Christopher and Valier; Methodist—Greenwood, Valier and Christopher; Christian—Mulkeytown and Christopher; Catholic—Christopher; Free Baptist—Christopher.

Politically, Tyrone is Democratic but oftentimes Republicans carry the township. The present supervisor is Joe Bacon.

The town of Valier on the C. B. & Q. R. R. is a lively place. There are two large mines near and indications point to it as a very important city of the county.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### BENTON TOWNSHIP.

Benton Township lies east of Browning and south of Ewing, taking its name from the county-seat that it within its limits. The township was not settled as rapidly as the surrounding townships. A. D. Dollins entered land in Benton Township in 1828, but William King was the first settler. Wm. Drummond, John R. Williams, Abraham Ray, W. A. Swofford, and Braxton Parrish came into the township at a very early date.

Braxton Parrish was a pioneer Methodist preacher who came from North Carolina to Tennessee and thence to Illinois, settling in the eastern part of the township.

The Mooneyhams, Whittingtons, Espys, Brownings, Smiths, Baxters, Vances, Halls, Lampleys, Stilley's, Moores, Todds, Sweets, Jones, Swoffords and Smothers are prominent families in the development of the township.

Benton Township has five large coal mines within its limits and two cities, Benton and Logan.

The city of Benton—the county-seat—has three important railroads, the Illinois Central R. R., the Chicago and Eastern Illinois R. R. and the Iron Mountain.

Logan, five miles east of the city of Benton, is a city of 1,500 people. They have an up-to-date coal mine owned by the John A. Logan Coal Co. The city has an excellent school building and the town is growing very rapidly.

The schools of Benton Township are: Gresham, Mt. Zion, Rolloson, McGuyre, Benton, Middle Fork, Franklin, Logan, Crown Point, Dixon, Poor Farm and Clem. The churches are: Baptist—Benton, New Hope, Mt. Zion, Logan; Methodist—Logan and Benton; Christian—Benton.

Politically Benton Township is Democratic but Republi-

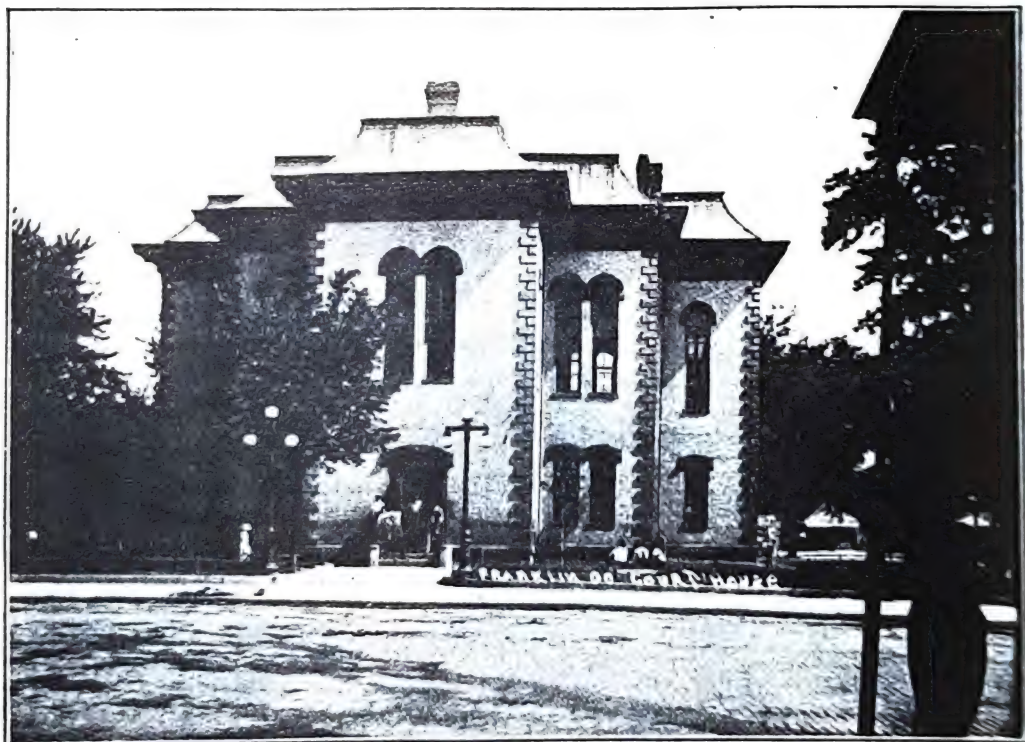


cans often elect part of the ticket. The present supervisor is Frank Easley.

### CITY OF BENTON.

During the session of the legislature of 1839, Franklin County was divided near the center north and south. The south half was formed into a new county called Williamson. The county-seat had been from 1826 at Old Frankfort on the Hill, but it was now quite evident that a new location for the county-seat would be selected. Walter S. Aiken and John Ewing secured land near the center of the territory of Franklin County so as to be able to get in on the "ground floor" of the new town.

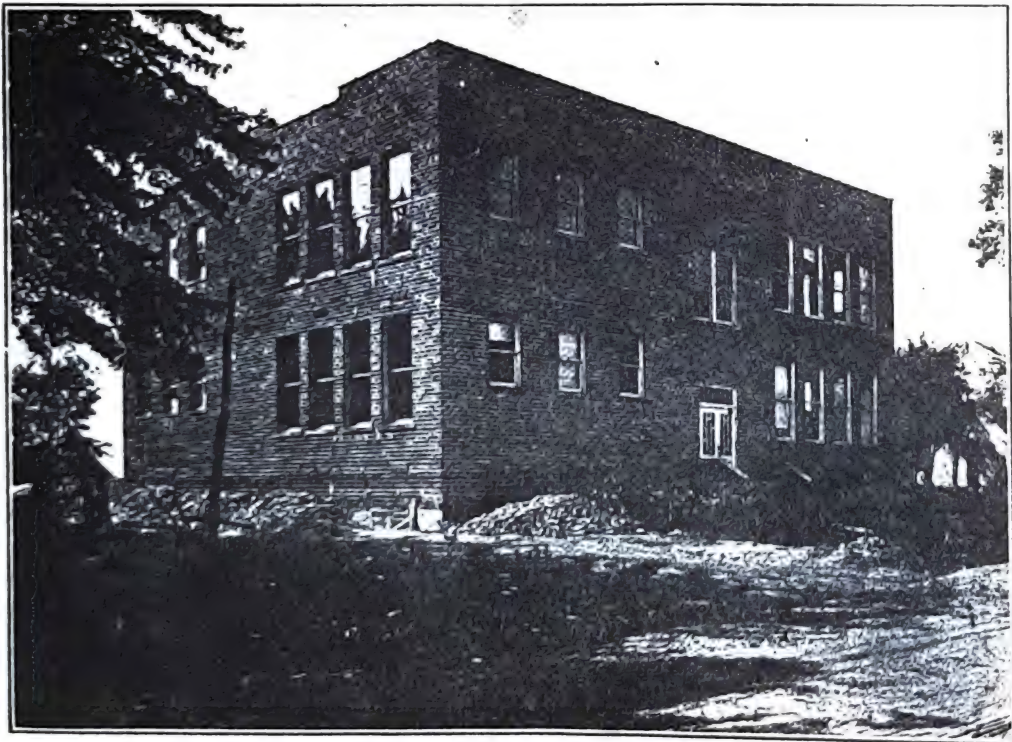
The act of the legislature, dividing the county, also named commissioners to locate the new county-seat. Milton Carpenter of Hamilton County, Noah Johnson of Jefferson County and John Reid of Perry County were named as the commissioners to locate and name the new county-seat.



FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT HOUSE, BENTON, ILLINOIS

These commissioners met at the home of Abraham Rea and after being duly sworn, began to view the several sites in and around the center of the county,—Swofford site, two miles of Benton, Ewing site near Rawling's Prairie, and Rea site south of Benton. They finally decided on the land "on the summit of a mound or hill on the edge of the timber, and at the south end of Rawling's Prairie." This land was owned by Walter S. Aiken and John Ewing. The owners agreed to give twenty acres. The commissioners set up a stake at the root of a forked hickory tree which was to be the center of the track. The forked hickory tree stood in the center of the square, and in the center of the present court-house. The site was covered with hazel brush and hickory trees.

Braxton Parrish says in his noted lecture that he had chased a bear over the site where Benton now stands. This new town was named "BENTON" in honor of the famous Missourian—Thomas H. Benton—who for thirty years was a United States Senator from Missouri. The land donated



THOMPSONVILLE SCHOOL



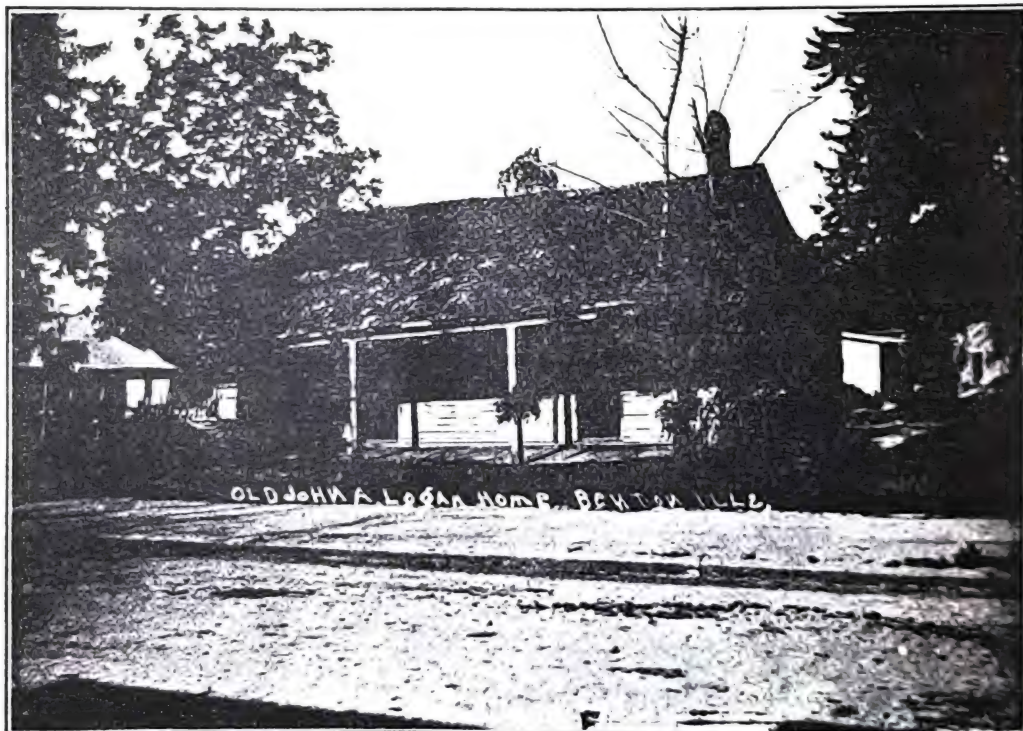
to the county for the new county-seat was surveyed and laid out into lots.

The lots were sold for the purpose of building a court-house and other public buildings. The aggregate of the lot sales on the public square was \$2,620.62 and the contract for the building of the first court-house and clerk's office was awarded to Augustus Adams for \$539.50.

The second court-house was built in 1845, and was the first brick house erected in Benton.

In the sales of town lots on the square it was found that Abraham Rea manifested an anxiety to buy Lot 38, where the Swofford building now stands. It was supposed that the hill on which Benton was located was dry and would be difficult to find a well of water. This lot—No. 38—had a well on it so the price paid for it was \$235.00, while the price of the others on the square ran from \$15.00 to \$50.00 for business lots.

Here on this lot Mr. Rea put up the first improvements

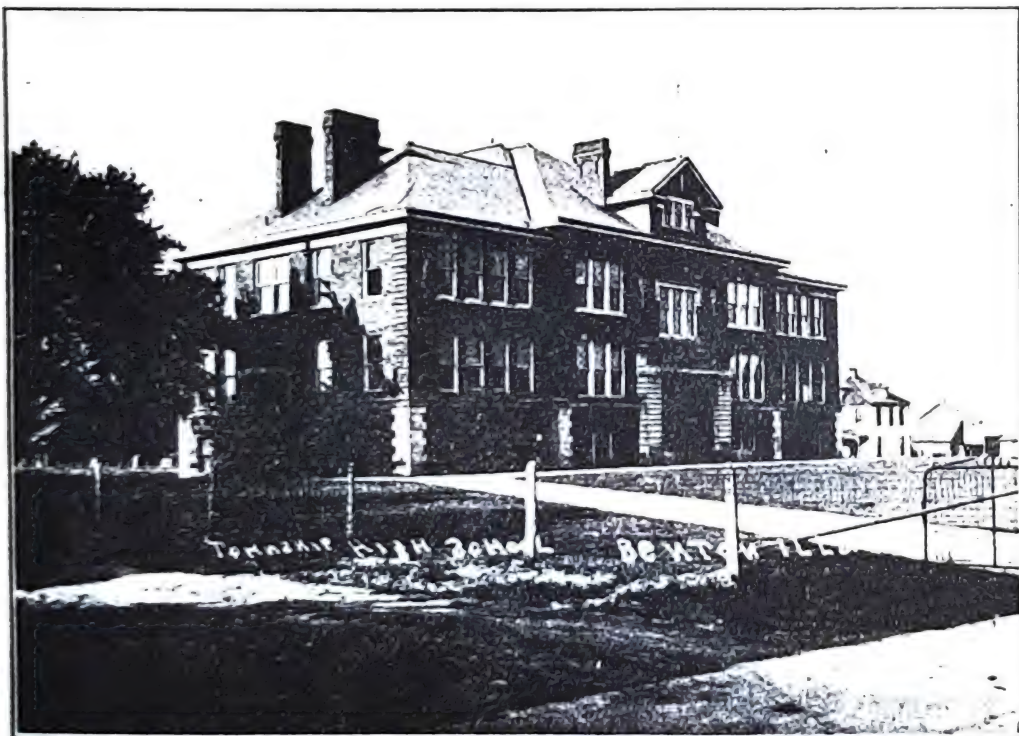


OLD JOHN A. LOGAN HOME, BENTON, ILLINOIS



aside from the court-house and Clerk's office. The house was a round log house 14 x 16 feet, in which to keep a grocery. Then a grocery meant a place to sell liquors. Later, Augustus Adams built a log house where the Hart block now is, for a grocery. These were the first business houses in the town of Benton. The next improvement in the town was a frame, built by J. F. Knox and Walter S. Aiken on Lot No. 24, where the new First National Bank building is being erected. Then later these parties extended the buildings to the alley, near the Hudson Hotel which was called the "White Row." The first hotel in the town was erected and kept by Wm. R. Browning, where the Noyler building now stands. The prices charged at these hotels were liberal, indeed, for a meal only 10 cents and for supper, bed and breakfast twenty-five cents. Cornbread was mostly used then.

The first merchants of the town were Knox and Aiken, Wm. R. Browning, Tilman B. Cantrell and A. D. Wilbanks. The store opened up by Welbanks was considered the largest



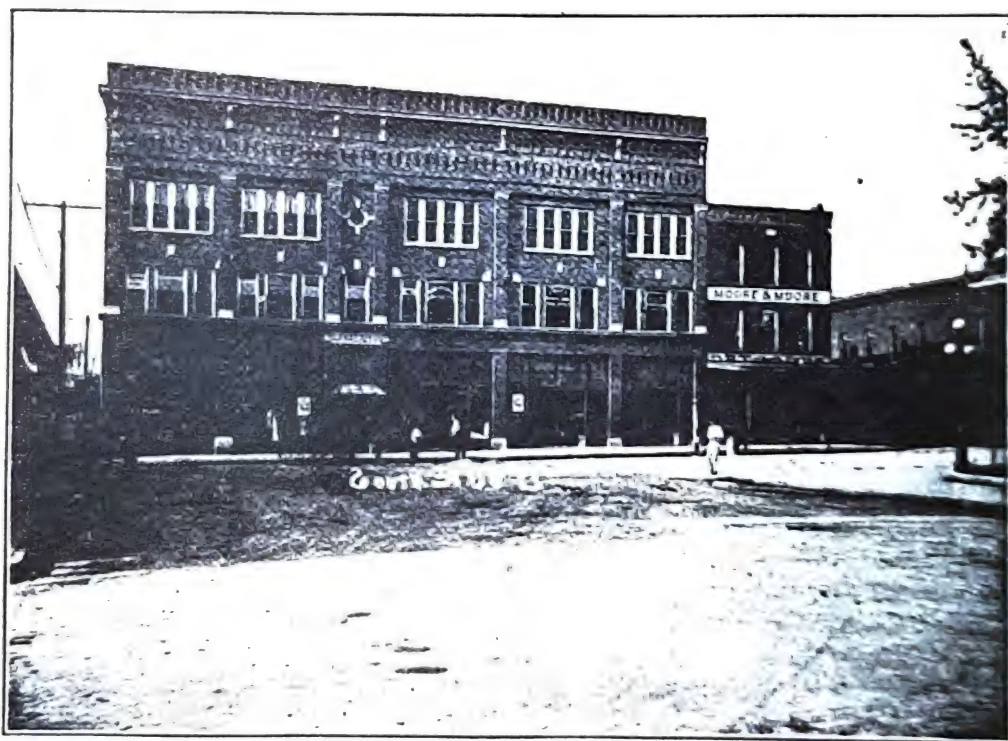
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, BENTON, ILLINOIS

store in the county. It was more spacious than the other stores, but had only about \$1,000.00 in goods. Levi Browning built a sawmill in 1853, and later put in burrs.

Up to 1869 there was not a brick house in Benton except the court-house. The old bank building of the First National Bank and the Ward and Mou. block on the south side were the first business brick houses. This was built by John J. St. Clair, who also built the present court-house and the Logan School building, which was torn down in order to build another more commodious.

At first the houses on the square were wooden buildings, but in the course of time these gave way to substantial brick buildings, and now the square is built up with large, commodious brick structures. At present one of the largest buildings, south of Springfield, is being erected on the north side of the square.

The early lawyers of Benton were W. B. Scates, Hugh Montgomery, Wm. A. Denning, J. H. Mulkey, John A. Logan,



WARD BUILDING, BENTON, ILLINOIS



M. C. Crawford, Wm. K. Parrish, A. D. Duff, F. M. Youngblood and S. E. Flannigan; the early preachers were Rev. Braxton Parrish, T. M. Vance, Robert Moore and Moses Neal. The early doctors were Drs. W. O. Espy, F. M. Sams and W. D. Burgess.

The first school in Benton was opened in 1841. The legislature incorporated the Benton Academy in 1841 and named some of the citizens as trustees. The trustees purchased a lot and built a two story frame building. The academy did not survive long. Then the trustees sold the property to the Benton school district and on the lot sold, was erected in 1870, the first brick school building in the county. The building received the name of Logan in later years. The old frame school house was moved about a block east on Church street and at present is occupied by Wilson Dillon, as a residence.

The oldest newspaper in Benton or Franklin County is the Benton Standard, established in 1849 by Tilman B. Cantrell. A. E. Martin is the present editor. The Franklin Coun-



HENRY HUSE FARM, CHRISTOPHER, ILLINOIS



ty Chronicle established in 1879 by John A. Wall, was destroyed by fire in 1890. The Benton Republican was established in 1894 by James S. Barr. H. L. Frier is the present editor.

Benton has seven churches. The first Baptist church was organized in 1841 through the efforts of Elder T. M. Vance. This church is the strongest Baptist church in Franklin County. Dr. W. P. Throgmorton was for many years pastor of this church. Its present membership is 550 and Rev. J. L. Meads is the present pastor.

The Methodist church of Benton was organized about the year 1852, through the efforts of Rev. Braxton Parrish. The Methodist church has had a line of very eminent divines from the time of its organization to the present time. Its present pastor is Rev. L. S. McKowen.

The Christian church was organized in the winter of 1888. Their church building was destroyed by fire. A lot on the next block south was secured and one of the best church edifices in Southern Illinois has been erected. The Christian church



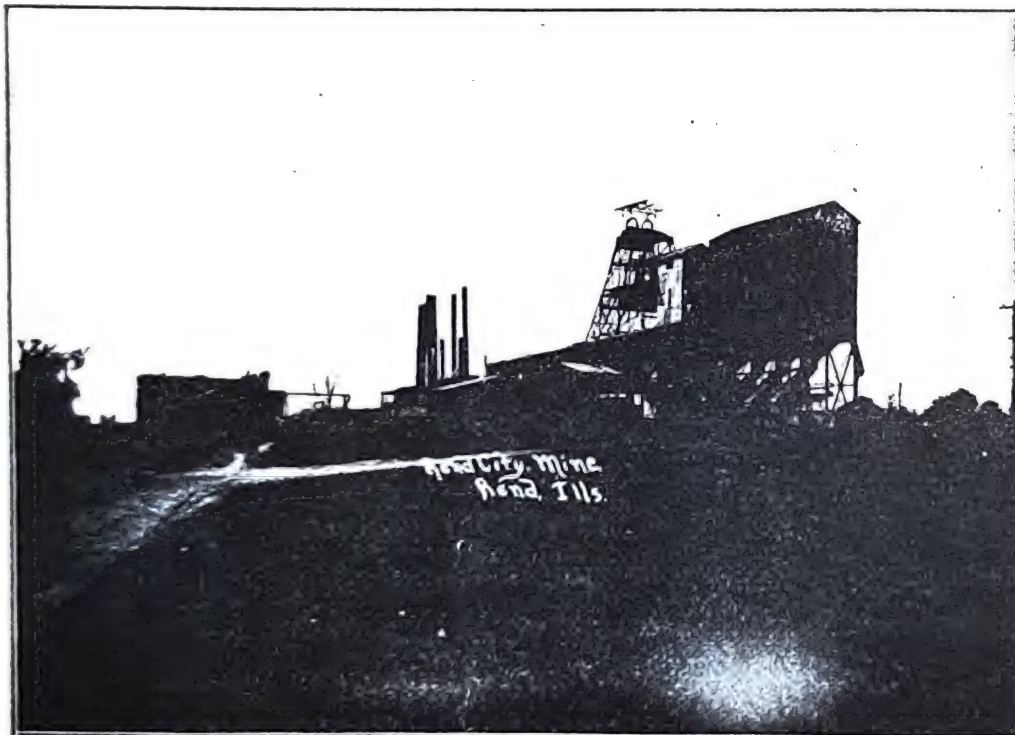
BENTON COAL COMPANY, BENTON, ILLINOIS

is strong in membership. Rev. P. H. Robertson is the present pastor. There are two regular Baptist churches on Webster Avenue and a Catholic church in the west part of the city. West City has a Baptist church called Prospect.

Benton has four large department stores. C. E. Seeber, in the Ward building in the southeast part of the square, does a very large business. E. B. Nolen, located on the west side of square has an excellent department store. Moore and Moore, on the south side of square has an up-to-date department store.

Benton has three large lumber yards; Stotlar, Herrin Lumber Co., located on North Street; W. L. Eskew Lumber Co. on South Street and Smith Lumber Co. near the C. & E. I. depot.

The first bank organized in the county was known as the bank of Ward and Moore. Later this bank merged into the Benton State Bank and located on the east side of square. This bank has a capital stock of \$50,000.00. Capt. Carol



REND CITY MINE, REND CITY, ILLINOIS



Moore is president. R. R. Ward, W. B. Blake and W. W. McCreery are vice-presidents.

The First National Bank was organized in 1899. Its capital stock is \$50,000. W. W. McFall is president, Jesse Diamond vice-president and G. C. Cantrell, cashier.

The Mercantile Bank and Trust Co. was organized in 1912, with capital stock of \$25,000. A. S. Cleveland is president and W. R. Browning is vice-president. N. S. Helm, cashier.

There are two large hardware stores in Benton. The McFall Hardware Co. located on north side of square is perhaps the largest business of its kind in Southern Illinois. The Campbell Hardware store on the southeast corner of square does a flourishing business.

Benton is blessed with three good hotels and could use more to great advantage. Hudson Hotel, established by Joseph Hudson, is located on the northeast corner of square. Bennett's Hotel on East Street is a European hotel. There are



OLDEST HOUSE STANDING IN FRANKLIN COUNTY. BUILT 1814 ON BROWNING HILL



several cafes that are up-to-date and do a big business. Allen's cafe on East Street and Jed's cafe in McCreery's block, southeast corner of square, are the leading cafes.

The A. D. Jackson Saddlery Co. is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in Southern Illinois. It was organized by A. D. Jackson in a very early day. The old frame buildings were burned in 1896 and a large and commodious structure was erected to house the factory. This company manufactures more harness and collars than any institution of its kind in the Middle West.

The first brick buildings on the square were built in 1870. These were the Moore building, where Moore and Moore's store is now and the First National Bank building. The next brick structure was the bank building of Ward and Moore adjoining the Moore building. The brick buildings next put up were the Hoskinson and H. Swoffords block on the east side of square about 1884, and the Mitchell building about 1890. The Odd Fellows erected the building, where Campbell's hardware store is now, about 1886.

The McFall block was next in the order of development, about 1894. The Naylor building came in about this time. The A. D. Jackson Saddlery Co. building was erected in 1897-8. The Hudson Hotel was next in order of development and the Garragus building and the Joplin block followed soon after this.

The Duppe building, Fitzgerald block, Dr. Joe Moore building and Mrs. Charley St. Clair building came in close together, also the C. A. Jackson. The Hart block, first built by Geo. Hubbard, then more added to it, was another great improvement on the west of square, south of west Main Street. The Benton State Bank building was erected about 1902. The Browning block and the Mrs. E. H. Swofford building came next in order. The Ward building was the largest building of any on the square.

The McCreery block on the southeast corner was quite an

improvement, this contained the hotel and postoffice, and was destroyed by fire. The new McCreery block sprang up in its place. The Webster building on the old Webster lot on west side of square was the latest on the square. The building now being erected by the First National Bank will be the climax of all the buildings to date. The building is to be six stories high, with elevator service.

## CHAPTER XV.

### BROWNING, EASTERN AND CAVE.

Browning Township lies east of Tyrone and south of Barren. It was settled first on Browning Hill in 1814 by John Browning and others. John Browning lived at the Jordan Fort for a while, and two of his sons, James K. and William R. were born in the fort in 1810 and were the first white children born in Franklin County. The oldest house now standing is on Browning Hill and was built in 1814. The Kings, Jones, Harrisons, and Hutsons settled around Browning Hill. There were numerous springs in the vicinity of the Browning Hill so this settlement became known as the Spring Settlement. John Browning was doubtless the first Baptist preacher in the county. Through his efforts the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church was organized in 1829 which was the first Baptist church organized in the county.

The name of the township, like Goode, and Denning, took its name from the family of early settlers.

The Big Muddy River flows through the township, thereby making a large area non-productive.

Buckner on the Illinois Central R. R. is a thriving town of about twenty-five hundred people. From the time the railroad was built till 1906 not much business was done at this place, but a coal mine was located east of Buckner which furnishes employment for several hundred men, since then the town has made rapid strides in its growth.

Rend City was established about three miles north of Buckner when the W. P. Rend Coal Co. located their mine there. A spur from the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R. was built out to the mines. There are about fifteen hundred people in Rend City.



West City in the suburbs of Benton lies in Browning Township. It is growing very rapidly. It has paved streets and good sidewalks and a very complete school building. West City joins up to Benton and really forms one city, yet they have separate city governments.

The schools of Browning Township are: Flatts, Rend City, Browning Hill, Mt. Pleasant, Crawford, Buckner, Jordan, Barren, Hill City and West City.

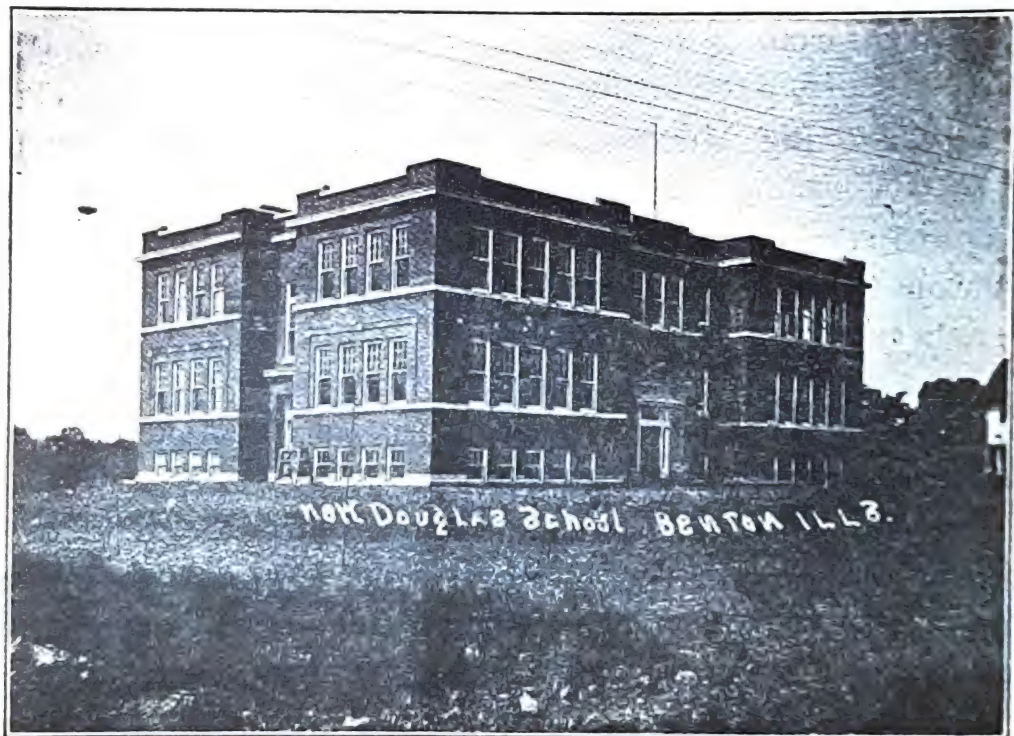
The churches of Browning Township are: Baptist Forest, Prospect, Buckner and Mt. Pleasant; Christian—Crawford; Free Baptist—Aiken Grove and Union Hill.

Politically Browning has been mainly Democratic, yet mixed tickets are selected very frequently.

The present supervisor is Jordan Smith.

#### EASTERN TOWNSHIP.

Eastern Township borders on Hamilton and lies south of Northern. It took its name from the name of a postoffice that

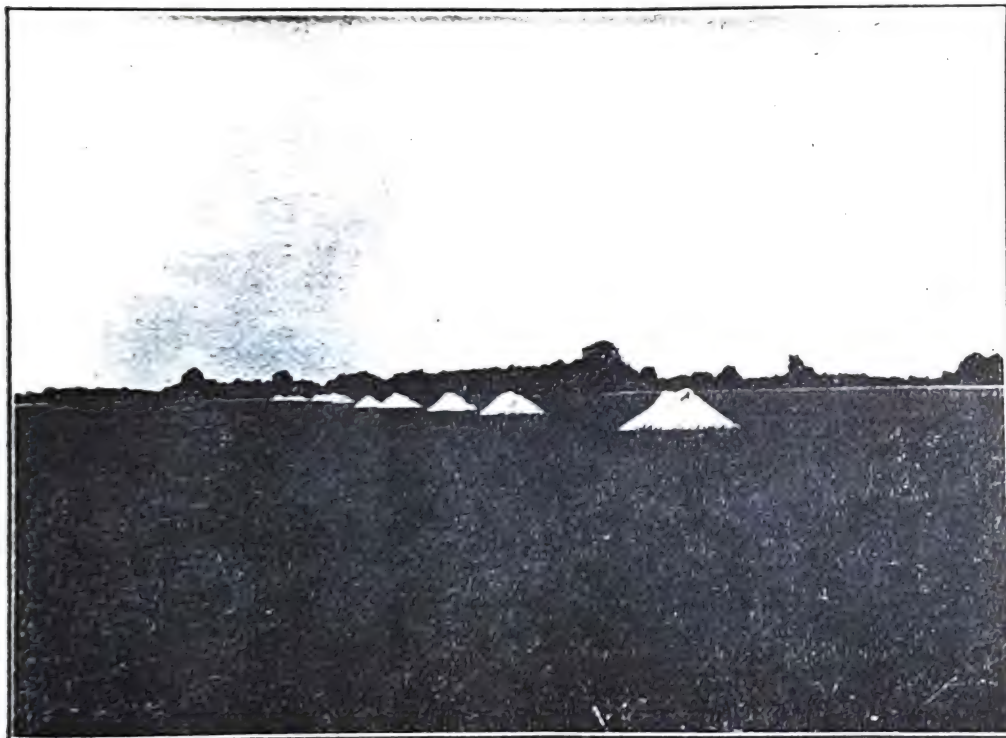


NEW DOUGLAS SCHOOL, BENTON, ILLINOIS

was early established in that locality. Thomas Thompson was perhaps the earliest settler, locating on Middle Fork, and was the father-in-law of Braxton Parrish—the famous pioneer of the early days of the county. Robert McLean settled near where the village of Aiken is located, in 1818, also his son-in-law James Aiken, settled at the same time about two miles west of the village. James Aiken, Sr., settled on Knob Hill in Eastern Township at an early date. The Summers, and Sullivans came to Franklin County about the time the Aikens and McLeans came. Rev. John Launis and the Dillons came about this time. The McLeans, Aikens, Summers, Sullivans, Launis and Dillons have lived in Eastern all the years of the county's history.

The first school house established in the county was in what is now known as the Brush Prairie School District.

The first Methodist church established in the county was at Mt. Etna in 1822. Rev. John Launis, Edward Sullivan



LIMESTONE—FRANKLIN COUNTY'S SALVATION. FARM OF PARKILL-DIMOND, BENTON, ILLINOIS



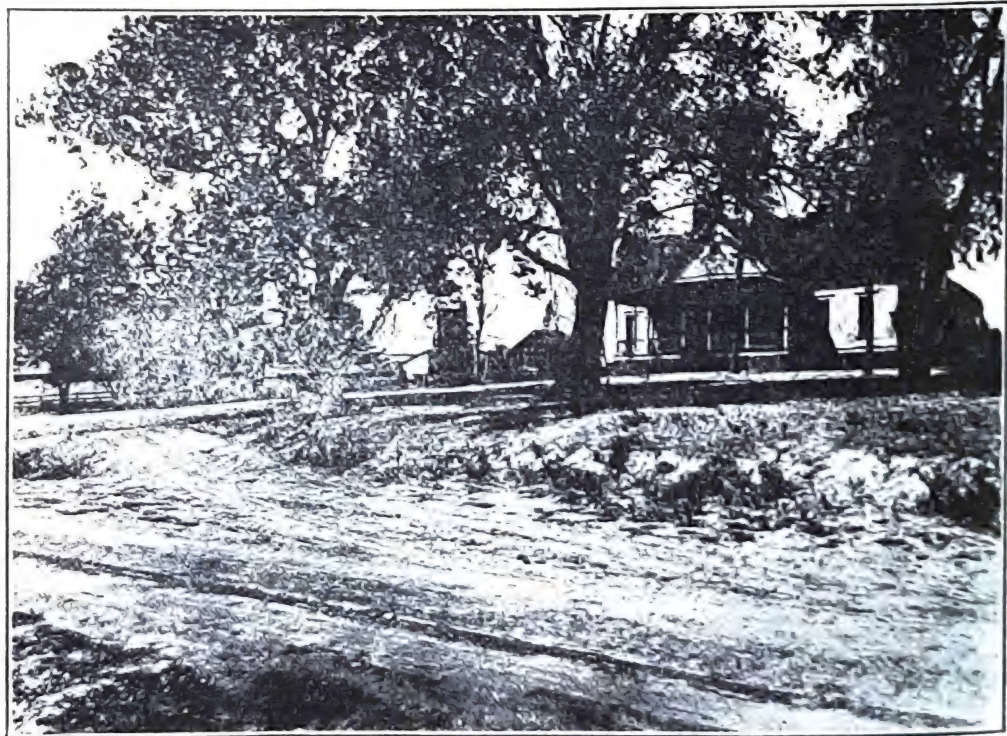
and some of the Summers were the charter members of this church.

The following families have been prominent in the development of the township: Shirleys, Smiths, Moss, Johnson, Bailey, Miller, Jones, Manion, Buntin, Crain, Otterson, Allen, Puckett, Chaplain, Collins, Hatchett, Creemens, Conover, Melton, Waller, Frailey, Jackson, Duckworth, Rouintue, Varnier, Harris, Minton, Randolph, Hays, Williams, Lee, Gaither, Brady and others.

The village of Aiken was started about 1875 when Aiken McLean had some of his land laid out into lots and named the town Aiken. The village has grown some, and at the present is quite a commercial point. The town has a bank and several business firms. Chas. Crisp is the leading merchant.

The township has the following schools: Bethel, Aiken, Manion, Brush Prairie, Willow Branch, Knob Prairie, Ridge, Center and Town of Aiken.

The churches are as follows: Baptist—Knob Prairie,



FARM RESIDENCE OF ROBERT LAMEERT, BENTON, ILLINOIS



Bethel and Jackson Grove; Methodist—Mt. Etna; Christian—Aiken; Free Baptist—Aiken; Latter Day Saints—Johnson Grove, Carter's Chapel.

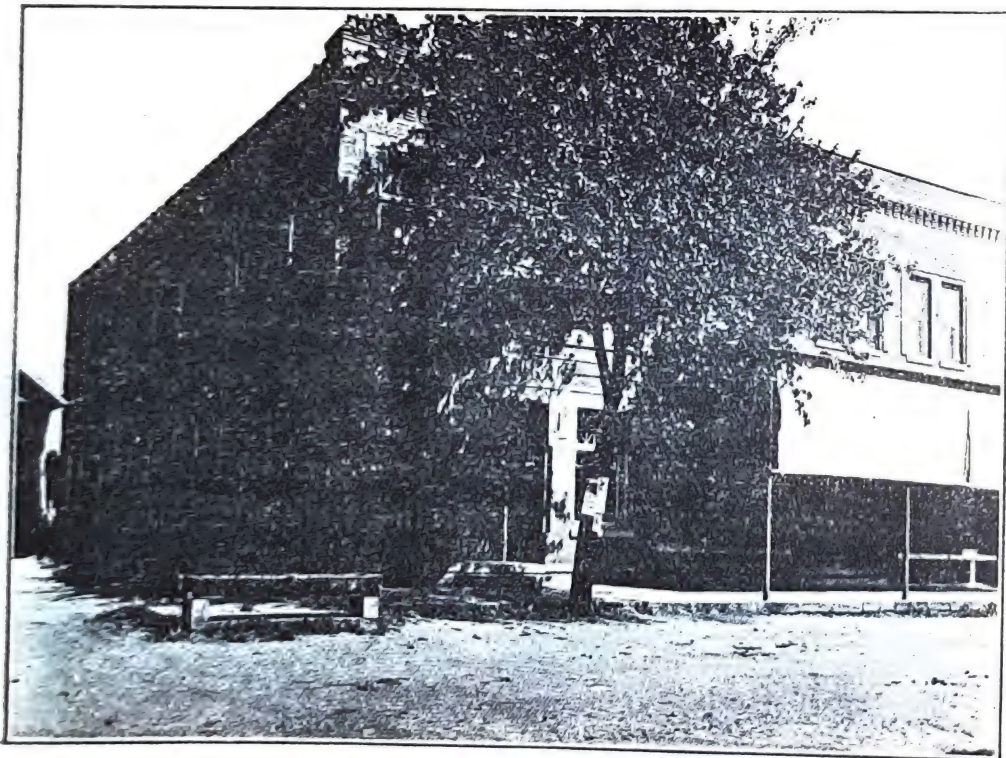
Politically, Eastern Township is Republican. The present supervisor is Wm. H. Crawford.

The township has no railroad or coal mines. The coal has been sold, with the exception of the south row of sections.

Knob Prairie is near the center of the township. It took its name from the knob in the eastern part of the prairie.

The most remarkable event in the history of the township was the enlistment of Co. F., 40th Illinois Inf. This company was largely made up around Aiken and vicinity. Aiken McLean encouraged the organization of the company. A dinner was given at his home Aug. 3, 1861, and the company left for action the same day.

Dr. John McLean, a noted physician of Chicago, is a son of Aiken McLean. Dr. McLean had a leg shot off by a cannon



THOMPSONVILLE BANK

ball at the battle of Shiloh. Captain Shirley and Captain Ing were from this locality.

### CAVE TOWNSHIP.

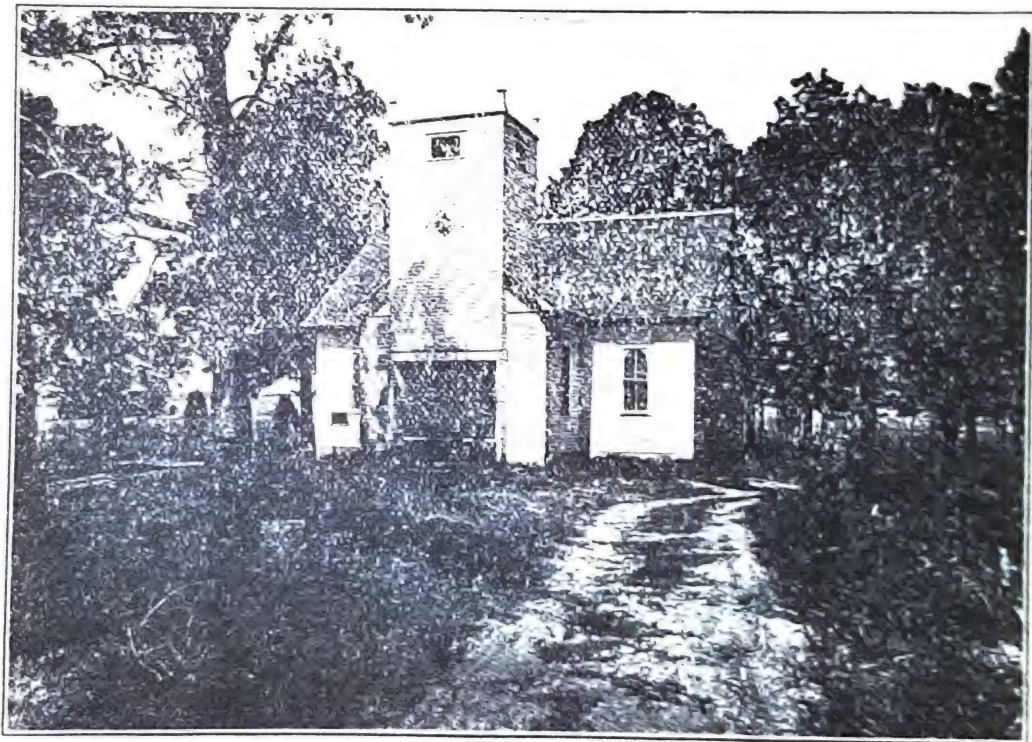
Cave township lies south of Eastern and borders on Hamilton and Saline Counties.

The township took its name from a postoffice that was established about 1840, the postoffice taking its name from the postmaster-general, Cave Johnson.

### SKETCH OF LIBERTY CHURCH.

By M. G. McCreery

In looking up the data for this sketch, the writer has been impressed not with the antiquity of our country, our state and our county, but rather with the youthfulness of it all, and the proximity of these events that so much concern us all. My grandfather, Alexander McCreery, lived until I was twenty-



MT. PLEASANT CHURCH. OLDEST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN  
FRANKLIN COUNTY. 1829



one years of age, and his father, John McCreery, was ten years old when the Revolutionary War began. Thus we are only three generations from the beginning of our national life.

We naturally take some community pride in being the oldest settled point in the county, and yet some of these earliest pioneers live to be known and are well remembered by some here to-day. One wonders that two or three generations should work such marvelous changes in a wild country, a virgin forest full of wild animal life and Indians.

I presume in 1804 the seven Jordan brothers, the two Brownings, Joseph E. Estes and Mr. Barbrey, were seeking a location, after leaving the last settlement at Equality, and pressing westward through the wilderness, came upon this spot, which was mostly prairie with a fine little stream of water and flowing springs with forests of white oak, hickory, walnut timber. It must have seemed a veritable paradise on earth, and was a prize worthy of the toils, the hardships and dangers of subduing.

As I understand it, these first settlers were squatters, perhaps acquiring no title to the land, but constructing a block house for protection from the Indians, subsisted on game, honey and a little corn that they might keep the Indians and game from stealing.

This block house sheltered many families within the next few years. It was probably constructed by the order of the governor in the year 1809 and stood on the south bank of the little creek about 40 rods southeast of Mr. Ing's horsebarn. Within its walls December 24th, 1810, were born to John and Nancy Browning, twin sons, William R. and James K., the first white children born in Franklin County. I can imagine that the event was properly celebrated that Christmas Tide. To demonstrate how near we are to these first events in our history, James K. Browning, one of the twins, was the father of our coroner of Franklin Co. and he is not classed with the old men either.



In the year 1812, while James Jordan and Mr. Barbrey were out getting wood, they were attacked by the Indians. Jordan was wounded, Barbrey was killed and scalped. My father used to point out to me the site of his grave. It was about two hundred yards a little southwest of Mr. Ing's barn, I judge.

I suppose that my grandfather bought out the interest of these settlers. It seems from the records that he entered the land in the year 1815, settling in the block house in 1816; later returning to Kentucky and marrying Ann Herrel, who was to prove a helpmate indeed, and whose mild, gentle spirit was to supply the restraining and softening influence to his rugged, positive nature.

My grandmother has told me that when they reached the Ohio River, and she had bidden good-bye to friends and relatives and was shedding tears at the parting, my grandfather said, "Never mind, Ann, you shall never regret your choice," and she declared, "I never did," though she told me



LIBERTY CHURCH AND MARKER NEAR FIRST SETTLEMENT IN  
FRANKLIN COUNTY

of occasions when my grandfather would be away until after dark, and she would slip out of the house and hide in the woods for fear of Indians, until she heard him return. The bear, the panther and the deer were abundant. I remember the story of a wild horseback ride that a woman had when a panther chased her right up to my grandfather's yard gate. Another, of my grandfather and his brother Robert, killing and piling up five bears in their yard in one day. Another, of Monroe Crawford, Uncle George and my father, when boys, finding two bucks with their horns locked, just in front of my house site. They secured an axe and some dogs and went after the deer and had one down when my grandfather rode up and shot the other. Judge Crawford became an eminent lawyer, is living at Jonesboro, and was invited to this celebration.

"Fancy Farm," the land composing the farms of Mark Stull, Lem Kimmel and Charley Willhite, was one of the noted places in the early history of our county. It seems that my great-grandfather first settled the land, later removing to Saline County to the Dunk Kincheloe farm.

Prior to the year 1821, at least, the Yost family occupied the place and they evidently brought their religion with them, for preaching services were conducted at their home at least that early, and these services led to the organization of Liberty Church, no doubt.

In the history of Franklin County the incident is told of the Rev. Braxton Parrish coming with his wife from North Carolina in 1821, and passing my grandfather's, carrying a Bible under his arm and my grandfather saying, "He had a blank sight better have a grubbing hoe on his shoulder." Another time, Uncle Brack passed on Sunday morning on his way to Fancy Farm to preach, and caught my grandfather in the act of skinning a deer. When asked if he were going to church, he said he would be on directly, and he soon came in and after the services invited the preacher home with him for dinner.



Later, in 1824, at a camp meeting near McLeansboro, my grandfather and grandmother were converted and soon after Liberty Methodist Episcopal Church was organized by the Rev. Jesse Walker. One authority gives the names of Henry Yost and wife, Sion Mitchell and wife, Alexander McCreery and wife, and John Waller and wife as charter members. The Rev. Benjamin Hancock, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, whose grave we sometimes decorate on the Ing farm, was perhaps a charter member of Liberty Church also. He is also given the credit of organizing the Mt. Etna Church.

Sion Mitchell, a charter member of Liberty Church, and the first school teacher in the county, came from Wilson County, Tennessee, in 1820, locating where Geo. H. Mitchell now resides. He was a public spirited man of ability, was very religious and was devoted to the church. He raised a family that for half a century contributed largely to the strength of this church and to the upbuilding of the community.

On Dec. 20, 1829, at nine years of age, Stanford Ing arrived in this community, and with his father's family, drove up to my grandfather's in the midst of a snowstorm and was given the privilege of stopping in the old log church.

The storm continued, and the church, which stood where Uncle Stanford's grave now is, sheltered them all winter. Nine years later at the age of eighteen years, Stanford was converted at Fancy Farm, joining the church November, 1838. In 1850 he was licensed to preach at the Liberty Church. He removed to Missouri in 1857, where he was actively engaged in the ministry until the war broke out. In 1861, he raised the first band of soldiers in that part of the state, and going with them, served in the Federal Army until 1863, when he returned to his chosen work. From 1868 to 1870, he had the distinction of serving as chaplain of the Missouri Legislature, later he was presiding elder of the Rolla District. His was an exciting and heroic life in Missouri in war times. Because of his pronounced loyalty to the Union he was often threat-



ened and mobs even made attempts upon his life. But the Lord, "Whose he was and whom he served," brought him through dangers and after many busy, useful years, gave him the desire of his heart, to come back in his old age to the home of his childhood to rest a little while and to lay his wearied body down in this spot held so sacred by him.

I very well remember the Rev. Braxton Parrish, perhaps the most noted of the pioneer preachers, and settlers of this community, and for whom the town of Parrish was named. He went home from church with us one Sunday for dinner when I was a small boy, and scandalized himself in my eyes, by firing a toy gun that I was showing him. I had been better trained than to shoot a gun on Sunday.

Along with these already mentioned were Zadoc Mitchell, who died on the night the stars fell, Robt. Watson, John Keely, Joshua Barrett, Bowen Webb, Wm. Boyd, Cornelius Swain and Anthony Waite, who with their families, were pioneer settlers and pioneer settlers of the church, whose names are familiar to some of us who never saw their faces. Other early settlers were the Clarks, Crawfords, Newmans, Hursts, Laymans, and the Plasters.

Among the early preachers, local and traveling, were David and Henry Yost, Elkins, Launius, Prentiss, Files, Parrish, McMustry, Crawford, Lock, Shepherd, Cullom, Nail, Sears, Casey, Kimber, Carter, Allen, Lopas, Johnson, Earp, Lowe, Hill, Spencer, Bruner, Rutledge, Vancleive, Thatcher, Lakey, Knapp, Holt and Laughlin. The first building erected in 1826, stood just north of the one that succeeded it, and was used for both school and church purposes. After it was destroyed by fire, a second log house was built where Uncle Stanford, at his request, was buried. I remember this building very well, for two reasons: there I attended the first Christmas tree of which I have any recollection, and there I spent my first day in school.

The incomplete list of preachers above, brings us down to the time of the erection of this building. The contract was

let to J. G. Mitchell. The building was dedicated June 26, 1864, during the pastorate of Rev. R. W. Laughlin and by the presiding elder, Rev. J. H. Hill. The writer of this sketch made his first public appearance on that occasion, being two months old.

This in brief is the early history of our church and community, very imperfect, I feel, but giving you a glimpse of the beginning of things in our midst.

I find one item of much interest to me. In one of the histories it is told that the legislature in 1841, authorized the establishment of a college within two miles of the residence of Alexander McCreery, which was to be known as "Fancy Farm College" with Alexander McCreery, Henry Yost, Sion Mitchell, Richard Cantrell, Wm. Jones, Wm. Mitchell and John Roberts as trustees. But it seems that the college failed to materialize.

Fancy Farm in 1852 or 1853, came into the possession of Geo. R. Marvel from Indiana, who distinguished himself during the Civil War, becoming colonel of the 13th Ill. Cavalry.

The forefathers early provided good school advantages and the community was widely known as an educational center.

Only lack of time and the fear of tiring you with the length of this paper, prevents me from bringing in those characters of the second generation and those families that located in the fifties and sixties, and who were bearing the burdens of the church and were active in the community life when the writer was but a boy.

The Tates—Uncle George and Uncle Charley; the Shepherds—Uncle Hamilton and Uncle Ashur; Joseph Biggs, Dr. J. F. McAually, the Marvels, W. A. Stewart, Cyrus McCreery, the Mitchells—J. G. Zadoz and Charley; the Kays—Louis and George; the Poindexters, Mr. Delaney, Samuel Gardum and others that might be mentioned; local preachers, exhorters,

class leaders, Sunday School teachers, superintendents, stewards, trustees, members, efficient, faithful, loyal, are held in sacred memory.

I suppose that Aunt Lavina Newman has the distinction of having longest been a member of Liberty Church of any one now living, having been a member for 65 years or more. She is now 83 years of age.

My mother, Mrs. S. A. McCreery, perhaps holds the second place. She is 82 years of age, and has been a member of the church for 62 years.

What more shall we say; we are indeed "Reaping where we have not sown, gathering up where we have not strewn, are drinking from wells that we digged not." Ours is a blessed heritage.

For over ninety years the gospel of righteousness and true holiness has been preached and exemplified on this sacred spot.

The writer of this sketch had a respect and reverence for the patriarchs, the fathers and mothers in the church, that was akin to awe, and after forty years of membership in Liberty Church, and fellowship and associations with her members, can say that in the main he has had the utmost confidence in their sincerity, their pure motives, their religion. Let us be true to our trust. We have our twentieth century problems.

May we be the "worthy sons of noble sires" and in that last great day, the day of reckoning, may Liberty Church be presented to the Master, "a glorious church; not having a spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." Amen and Amen.

(Read at the Centennial Celebration at Liberty M. E. Church, August 10, 1918.)

The town of Thompsonville is located on the I. C. R. R. near the center of the township and has a population of about 800. The town was founded by Richard Thompson when the railroad was built in 1878. "Dick" Thompson, as he was



familiarly called, bought tobacco at this point for a long while. Bowman Bros. was a leading firm that did considerable business in Thompsonville. Perhaps the oldest business in Thompsonville now is the drug store of J. J. Bundy. The store of Burns & Co. is one of the largest department stores in Southern Illinois. The lumber yard is managed by Wm. McCreery, a scion of the original McCreery stock.

Thompsonville has a bank and an excellent bank building and can boast of a very fine school and school building.

Parrish is another station on the I. C. R. R. that has an important history. It was a trade center for wheat buying, and it is said bought more wheat then than any point in the county in its day. Jones Bros. established the first dry goods store in Parrish and did a big business, then going to Benton, they continued to do a large business; from Benton to Kansas and continued to enlarge their business and finally reached Kansas City, where they established a large wholesale business. So a small town sometimes trains men to carry on a large business in the great cities. Parrish took its name from the country postoffice that was located north of Parrish. The postoffice was named in honor of the Parrish family, of whom Braxton Parrish was the progenitor.

The schools of Cave Township are: Pleasant Hill, Autin, Parrish, Reed, Thompsonville, Saul, Liberty, Mt. Zion and McReynold.

The churches are: Baptist—Thompsonville, Pleasant Hill, Parrish; Methodist—Thompsonville, Parrish and Liberty.

Politically Cave Township is Republican.

There was a trading point and rendezvous for drinking men, generally known as "Sneak out," about a mile north of Parrish on the Old Shawneetown road. This point dispensed with booze in any way they wanted to buy it. There is nothing to mark the famous booze joint resort. It only lives in the memory of some of our older citizens.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP.

Frankfort Township lies west of Cave and south of Benton. It took the name of the county seat that was located within its confines.

There were two causes that contributed to Frankfort's dense population in the early history of the county. First, the opening up of the Kaskaskia-Shawneetown road through Frankfort and second, the location of the county seat on the hill in the township.

The early settlers were Elijah Ewing, Thomas Roberts, John Crawford, Solomon Clark and Moses Garret. These families were in the township at an early date—as early as 1810 or '12. The families coming later were the Lces, Fitts, Rotramels, McClintocks, Martins, Bryants, Walls, Pinkstone, Cars, Estes, Ross, Cunninghams, Rains, Willinows, Nolens, Moores, Bennetts, Melvins, Neals, Newmans, Harrels, Sinks, Dimmicks, Evans, Bonors, Colemans, Maddoxs, Hays, Woods, Dorris and others, and from this stock of people have come some of the best people of the county.

The county seat was established in this township, and Frankfort town—the oldest in the county, became famous as an inland trading center.

Fitt's Hill and Old Greenville were trading posts for their day, but have long since been forgotten by most of the people of Franklin County.

West Frankfort is a thriving city on the C. & E. I. R. R. The towns of West Frankfort and Old Frankfort now contain a population of 12,000 or more.

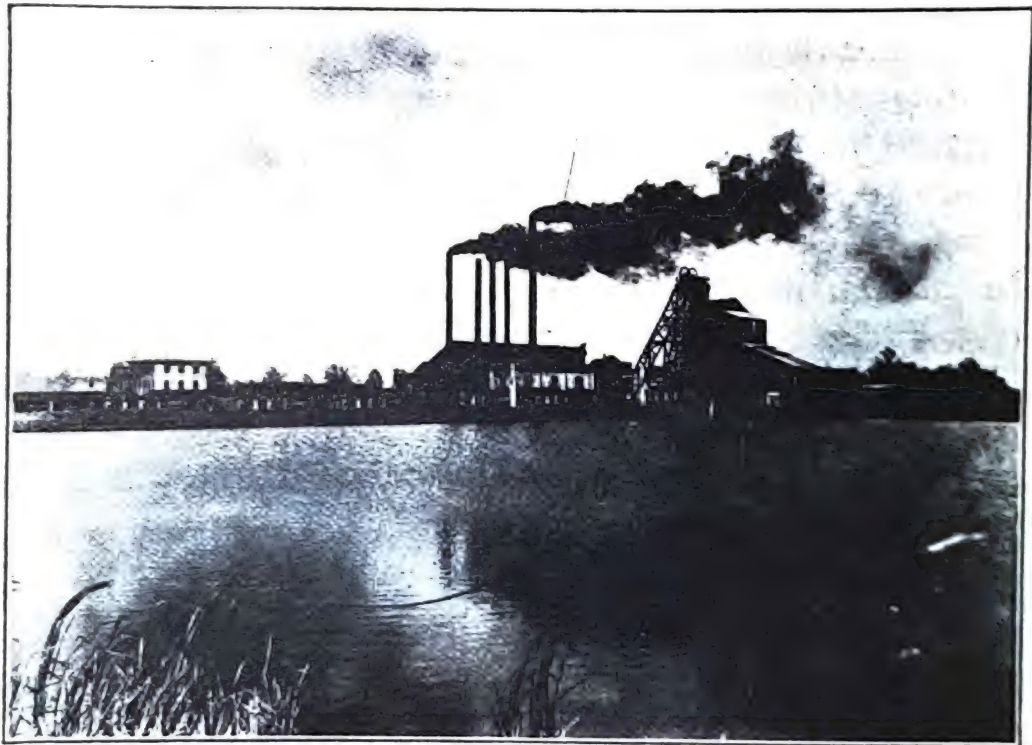
The schools of Frankfort Township are: Crawford's Prairie, Neal, Deering City, West Frankfort, Frankfort Heights, Wall Town, Garrett's Prairie, Weaver and Union.

The churches are: Baptist, West Frankfort, Frankfort Heights, Crawford's Prairie, and Pleasant Grove; Methodist—Frankfort, West Frankfort, and Antioch; Christian—West Frankfort; United Brethren—Bonor. The township politically is Republican. John Hand is the present supervisor.

### FRANKFORT.

In the vicinity of Frankfort, more people had settled about 1812 to 1815 than in any other locality in Franklin County. The Ewings, Roberts, Crawfords, Hubbards, Jordans, Garretts, Dements, Dennings, Estes, Clarks, Neals and Cantrels, had settled in and around Frankfort until it was the most densely populated portion of the county at that early period.

When the county was organized Jan. 2, 1818, there was not a town or village in the entire territory of Franklin Co. The act of the territorial Legislature, creating Franklin Coun-



PRODUCERS COAL COMPANY, WEST FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS



ty, made the new county seat at the tavern of Moses Garrett, on the Kaskaskia-Shawneetown road about three miles east of Frankfort Hill. This old county seat was located on the Old Henry Hays farm, near the old homestead of Bennie Bryant. The county seat was at this old log house tavern and in a log house near for eight years.

The act creating the county, also named commissioners to locate the county seat of the new county; but these commissioners failed to locate the county seat. The legislature of the new state of Illinois (Illinois admitted Dec. 3, 1818) February 1, 1821, passed an act appointing Conrad Will of Jackson County, Isaac Casey of Jefferson, Samuel Omelvany of Pope and James Kirkpatrick of Washington as commissioners to locate the new county seat.

These commissioners selected the hill in Sec. 20, of Frankfort Township—Town 7 R. 3 E. as the site for the new county seat in 1821. Previous to this a number of people had settled around the hill. The name of Frankfort took its name from Francis Jordan's Fort, about four miles away. The first court house was erected on the hill and was made of logs with puncheon floor made smooth with an adz, and the boards of the roof were fastened on with nails that were hand made. It was occupied in 1826. Later than this a brick court house 20 ft. by 30 ft. was erected which was the first brick structure ever made in the county. This famous old courthouse was used till 1841, when the county seat was moved to Benton.

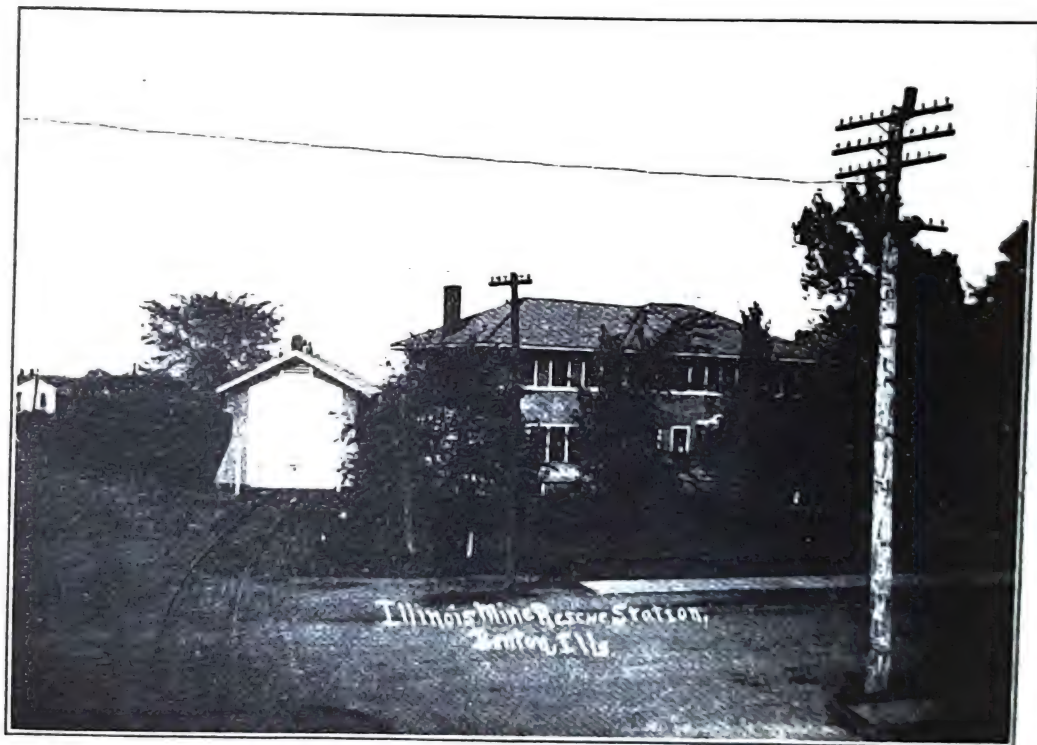
As the county began to grow and develop so did the first town in Franklin County. Back in the 30's and 40's Frankfort took its place alongside of other flourishing towns of Southern Illinois, such as Brownsville, Kaskaskia, Lusks, Elvira, Bainbridge and Shawneetown. These towns have all passed into oblivion except Shawneetown, and live now only in the memory of our oldest people. Frankfort was considered the most important town in the interior of Southern Illinois, rivaling Shawneetown or Chicago at this early period. Prominent merchants from the river towns visited Frankfort,

also the old time lawyers came to Old Frankfort to hold or attend court.

The early merchants of Frankfort were Dorris and Elstun and Mobley Bros. Solomon Clark was an early dealer in family groceries and liquors. Dorris and Elstun had the distinction of putting up the first store in Franklin County. It was at this store that Braxton Parrish bought his twenty-four yards of domestic and paid for it in other skins, as mentioned in his famous lecture delivered at Benton in 1874. (See elsewhere for lecture.)

Around this historic spot on Frankfort Hill clusters more history of the early days in Franklin County than any other spot.

It was here or near here where the wheels of machinery of our county government were first started. Here, where S. M. Hubbard (the late father of Geo. T. Hubbard) acted as County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Probate Judge and Master-in-Chancery one man filling all these county offices. Here David



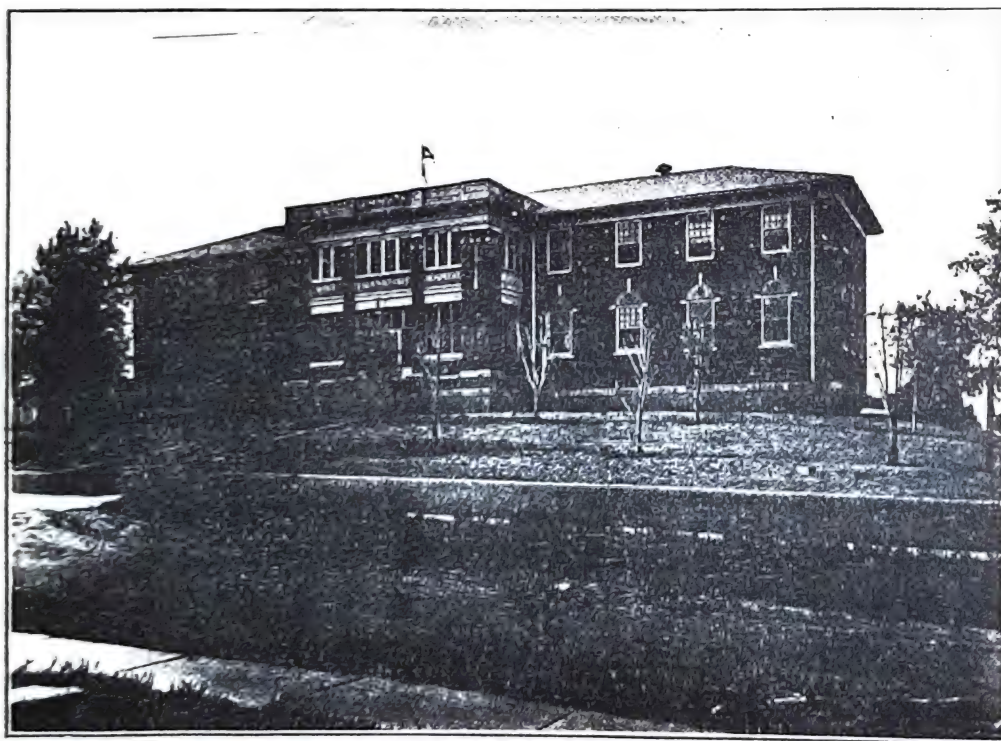
ILLINOIS MINE RESCUE STATION, BENTON, ILLINOIS



Maxwell was sworn in as the first sheriff of the county. Here began Hon. Wm. A. Denning to practice law, also Judge W. B. Scates, who was the county's first Circuit Judge and later Judge of the Supreme Court. Great lawyers of early days got their first practice in court at Frankfort.

The hey-day of Frankfort was now, feared to be over, as, by act of the Legislature of 1839, Franklin County had been divided. The south half was organized into a new county called Williamson and a new county seat was inevitable. This was a great surprise to the people of Frankfort.

The citizens protested but it did not prevent the moving of the county seat. The commission appointed by the legislature selected Benton as the place for the new county seat. Frankfort now seemed doomed, yet the staid old town continued on without the county seat. Much business was done there. A flour mill was erected. It was a great castor bean and tobacco market for years. Some of the best people in the county—the Dimmicks, Horrills, Clarks, Colemans,



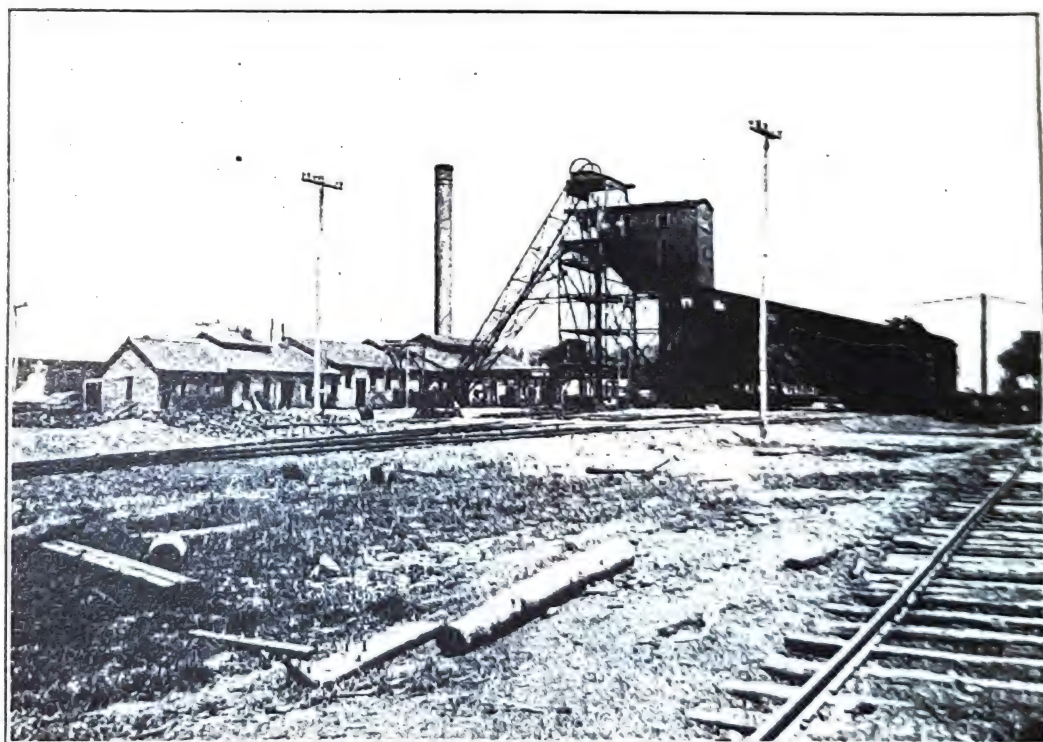
MINERS HOSPITAL, WEST FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS



Odums Ices, Jones, Roberts, Sinks, Crawfords, Rotramels and others—remained faithful to the town and pulled it through the lean years of its existence, yet in spite of this adversity it remained on the map.

In the early spring of 1894, a bunch of surveyors came to Frankfort surveying a line for a railroad from St. Elmo in Fayette Co., Ill., to Marion, county seat of Williamson County. Great excitement had now come to these people. The thought of getting a railroad seemed to encourage everyone, but soon it was learned the line would be about a mile and a half from the hill, great concern was felt, as this might ruin their town. A depot was erected and the station named West Frankfort. Then came the moving of a great many houses from the hill to the town. Most of the business from the hill was moved to the west town. Those who had been faithful to the old town now felt that the Old Frankfort was doomed sure enough.

The town of West Frankfort was inevitable and must



PRODUCERS COAL COMPANY, DERRING CITY, ILLINOIS

come. Plans for organizing a new school district were made and much opposition was developed in the old town. At the time of the granting of the school it was predicted that in the course of time, West Frankfort and Old Frankfort would be all in one town. Not many of the older citizens could see any comfort in the prediction.

Coal had been discovered and W. H. Hart and Walter W. Williams of Benton had undertaken to develop a mine by sinking a shaft. This started the boom. The Eldorado of Franklin County had been discovered, and the wild rush, like California of '49 soon made a busy place of West Frankfort. Hart-Williams sold their mine to Deering Coal Company in 1904, and this company continued to develop the resources of the place with much vigor. No. 18 as it was then known, was a shaft N. E. of Frankfort and almost north of Old Frankfort that was completed soon.

About this time the C. & E. I. R. R. began a system of improvements in the city by making yards and establishing a round house for engines. This railroad improvement and works were a great asset to the city.

Frankfort Heights soon became the choice location of the best residence portion of Frankfort.

While the town has two separate corporations and two names, yet it is virtually one town. West Frankfort is now only the western part of the city. Frankfort Heights is covered with fine homes. This is Franklin County's greatest city. The school census of 1918 shows Frankfort to contain about 1200 people. Southern Illinois can not boast of a more progressive town than Frankfort.

Frankfort will dedicate a handsome marker on the Heights Sept. 8, 1918.



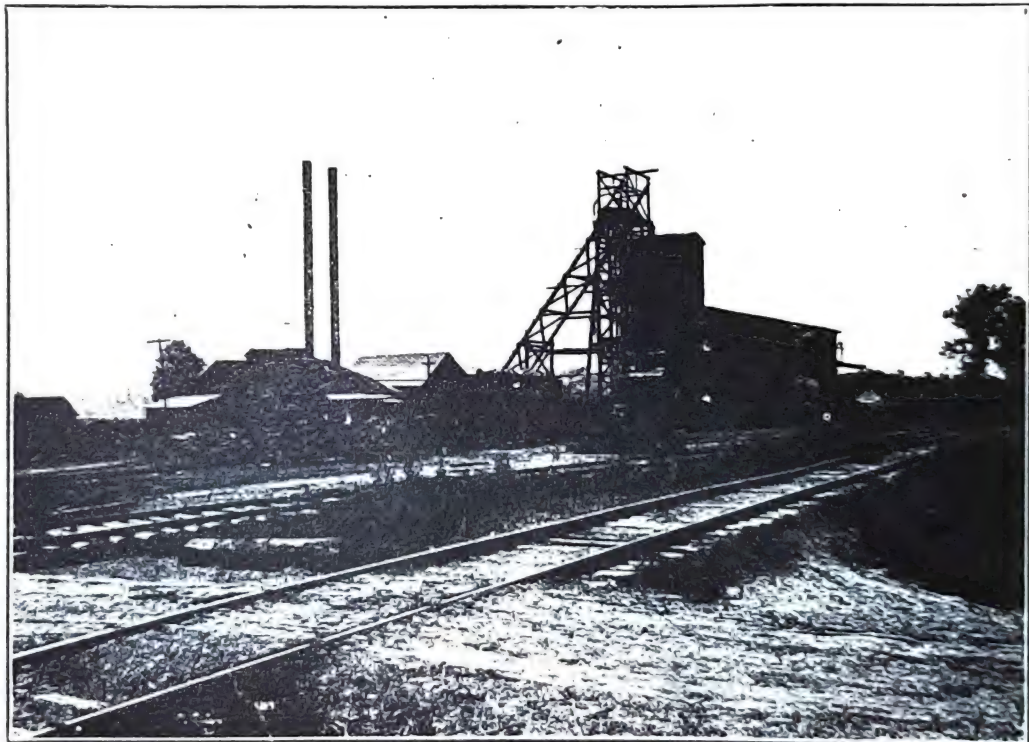
## CHAPTER XVII.

### DENNING TOWNSHIP AND SIX MILE TOWNSHIP.

The township of Denning lies west of Frankfort and south of Browning. It took its name from a prominent family who have been identified with its progress for more than one hundred years.

The Dennings, Hubbards and Dements seem to have been the first whites to enter the township. The Dennings took an active part in the organization of the county, settling near Plumfield. S. M. Hubbard, the most noted of that family, was the first county and circuit clerk in the county. The Dements, related to the Dennings, were soldiers in the Black Hawk War. A descendant of the Dements was three times Secretary of State of Illinois.

Plumfield is one of the old towns of the county. Here

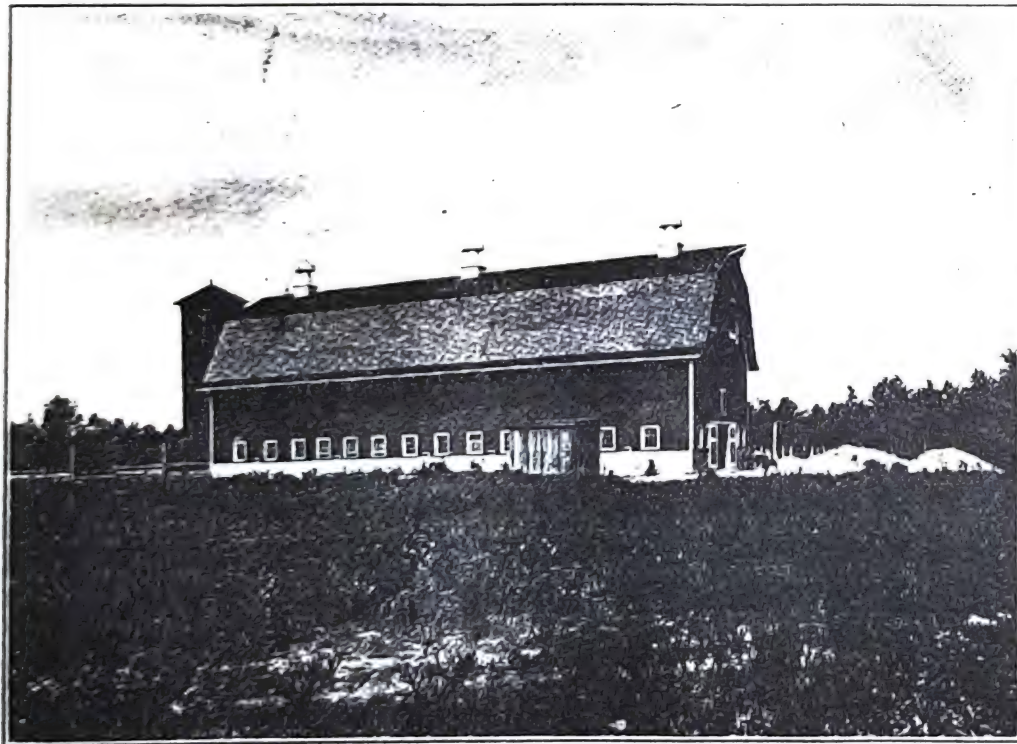


FRANKLIN COAL AND COKE COMPANY NO. 2, ROYALTON, ILLINOIS



was built the first toll bridge in the county. Townmount Prairie in Denning Township, is one of the fertile prairies of the county.

The prominent families of Denning are the Murphys, Dilliards, Deasons, Dawsens, Dorris, Jones, Averys, Duncans, Barbreys, Clarks, Crims, Dotys, Ezells, Biggs, Karns, Sanders, Hughes, Childers, Morgans, Ralls, Lemasters, Mitchells, Swof-fords, Haine, Stewarts, Joiners, Young and others. The towns of the township are: West Frankfort, Orient, Freeman, Plumfield and Cambon. A new town is just starting on the Townmount Prairie and is known as Pershing and everything points to a lively place in the next few years. Orient is a mining town and seems to be growing rapidly. There are now more than 1500 people in this place. Freeman is on the line between Williamson and Franklin Counties. This is a lively mining town. Plumfield on the Big Muddy and on the old Kaskaskia trail, has been a trading point for that locality for



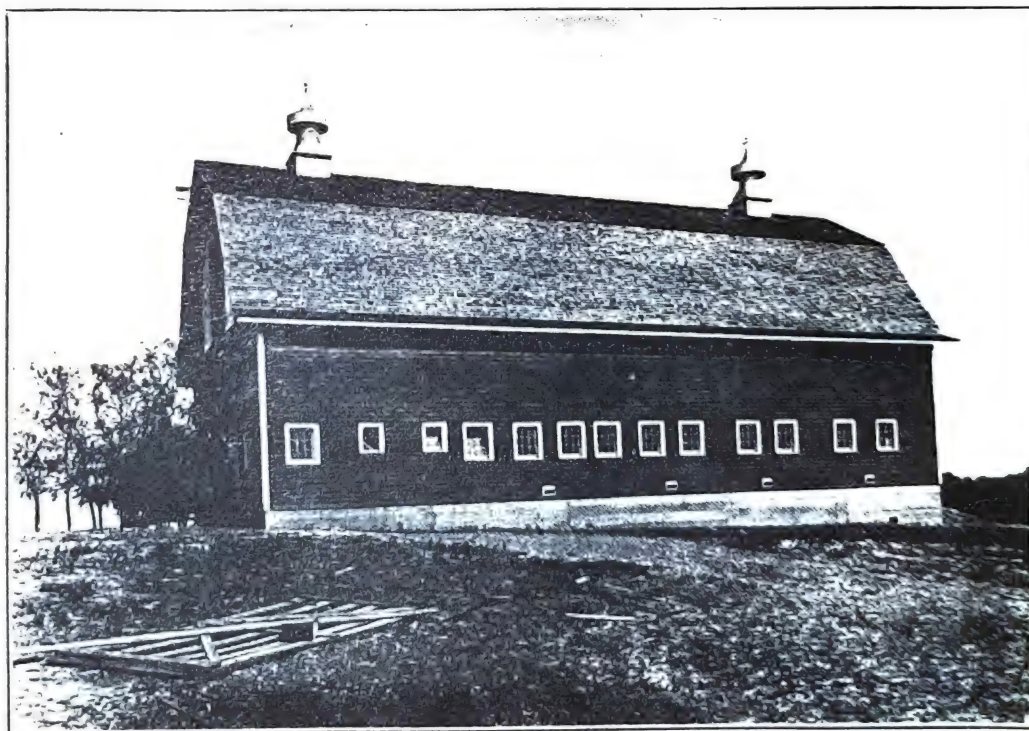
HORN BARN, JOSEPH LITER FARM, ZIEGLER, ILLINOIS. COST \$10,000

many years. The mines have been near enough that a great many live in Plumfield and work at the mines.

The schools of Denning are: Townmount, Orient, Plungeld, Rogers, Freeman, Joiner and Crim. The churches are: Baptist—Townmount; Methodist—Bethel; Christian—White. Politically the township is Democratic.

### SIX MILE TOWNSHIP.

This township is in the southwest corner of Franklin County and contains the largest prairie in the county from which it took its name. The early settlers were C. H. Humphreys, Gilbert Browning and G. W. Campbell. These families have remained in the township for more than a hundred years. Later came the Snyders, Blakes, Popes, Martins, Prices, Hubbards, Pierces, Royalls, Kirkpatrickes, Dials, Mitchells, Mannerings, Dawsons, Cars, Winchesters and others who have played an active part in making Six Mile Township what it is to-day.



DAIRY BARN, JOSEPH LITER'S FARM, ZIEGLER, ILLINOIS. COST \$12,000

The coming of the coal mines have caused towns to spring up. Royalton in the southwest part of the township is a thriving mining town of about 3,000 people. There are two active coal mines located near the town.

Zeigler, the first coal mine in the county was built by Joseph Leiter and later leased by Bell & Zoller. There are about 2,500 people in Zeigler, which was owned by Mr. Leiter, but recently, lots have been sold and now a great many own their property. Zeigler has an up-to-date school.

Bush and Clebern are also thriving towns in the township.

The Iron Mountain R. R. runs diagonally through the township. The Illinois Central also passes through. The schools of Six Mile Township are Four Mile, Pierce, North, South, Royalton, Zeigler and Center. The churches are: Christian—North and Royalton and Center; Baptist—Zeigler.

Politically Six Mile is Democratic and Daniel McPhail is the present supervisor.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

### RAILROADS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY.

Hill and Nye, railroad promoters came into Southern Illinois in 1875 and projected and surveyed a route for a railroad called the Belleville and Eldorado Railroad, extending from Belleville in St. Clair County to Eldorado in Saline County.

These promoters had no money but abundant supply of "nerve and wind" and by using these resources judiciously, the road was finally built.

They began building from Eldorado in 1877. They expected the counties through which they passed to take stock in the road and also to issue bonds to have the road built. The road was built from Eldorado to the Franklin County line. There it must stop until proper arrangements could be made with Franklin County. This end of the road was called "West End" now a lively station on the Illinois Central Railroad.

The eastern part of Franklin County did a great deal of wheat marketing at this railroad town. The first locomotive entered Franklin County at West End.

After some time Franklin County was ready to take stock and issue bonds. Henry Hudson of Benton sold \$75,000 of these bonds for Hill and Nye, so that the iron rails could be secured to build the road from West End to Benton, which was done and the whistle of the first locomotive to enter Benton was heard on Sept. 23, 1879. This locomotive was called "General Gibson" and was the old type of engine. The first conductor on this early road was Barney Blaney. He continued to make his runs regularly until a few years ago.

The trains on this road were very irregular and did not live up to the schedule time. The figures on the time table

indicating the time of arrival were always preceded by the word "About."

Frank Trott was the first station agent at Benton and was asked the oft familiar question, "When will the train come?" Glancing down the track he would say, "Pretty soon, now, here comes Barney's dog."

The Belleville and Eldorado road was completed to Du Quoin, May 1, 1880. It was sold to the St. Louis, Alton and Terre Haute Railroad Company, July 1, 1880, and was called the "Cairo Shortline" until 1895, when it was sold to the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Since then the road has been greatly improved.

Johnson Brothers of St. Elmo, Illinois, railroad contractors, conceived the idea of building a road from St. Elmo in Fayette County to Marion in Williamson, a distance of 100 miles. This road was surveyed in the spring of 1894 and work soon began and was completed that summer and fall. This was before the days of the coal development in Franklin County. The road was known as the Chicago, Paducah and Memphis Railroad Co. It was sold to the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad Company in 1897; since then the road has been operated by this company. The coal development in subsequent years has made the road a profitable investment.

The St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern was completed to Benton, July, 1908. It belongs to the Missouri Pacific System of railroads. The coal development has caused many lines of railroads to become interested in hauling the coal to market.

The J. J. Hill System of Railroads, the Great Northern, and the Chicago, Quincy and Burlington roads desired to reach the coal fields of this county. They purchased the Old Jacksonville and South Eastern Railroad. Then building from Centralia to Herrin by way of Sesser, Rent City, Valier, Christopher, Zeigler, West Frankfort, and Freeman. This road hauls more coal from the county than any other road.

The Illinois Central has built a spur road to West Frankfort and to Herrin.

Franklin County now has three railroads leading to Chicago and two to St. Louis.



CHAPTER XIX.  
COUNTY OFFICIALS.  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE PRESENT  
COUNTY OFFICIALS OF FRANKLIN  
COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

*Wm. D. Seeber.*

William D. Seeber, dean of the present county officials, was born in Cortland County, New York, May 20, 1843. He graduated from a commercial college at Binghamton, New York, in 1864. Came to Franklin County, Illinois, the following year and began teaching school, continuing in this profession for four years.

He was married to Florence I. Pope in Popes Prairie in Franklin County, Sept. 16, 1869, was elected assessor in Six Mile Township two terms and justice of the peace one term of four years. In 1878 he was elected sheriff of Franklin County, serving one term. In 1881 Mr. Seeber moved to Wayne County, Illinois, living there till the fall of 1884 and during the time in Wayne County was elected justice of the peace. He returned to Franklin County and was elected police magistrate in April, 1899, serving four years. Mr. Seeber was selected deputy county clerk and served from June 1, 1898 to Nov. 1, 1902. He was elected county clerk Nov. 4, 1902 and reelected 1906, 1910 and 1914. Mr. Seeber has had twenty years of service in the county clerk's office serving longer than any clerk the county has had since the office has been separated from the circuit clerk's office.

*Q. E. Burgess*

Q. E. Burgess, County Treasurer and Collector, ex-officio Supervisor of Assessments, Franklin County, Illinois, was born in Franklin County, Illinois, Nov. 19, 1866, son of R. E. and Sarah Burgess. He was reared on a farm, educated in the

common schools of Benton, supplemented with three terms of select school.

He taught school from 1884 to 1894 continuously. In 1894 he became deputy county treasurer under W. R. Browning, serving four years in such capacity alternating as Deputy County Clerk to W. P. Asa for two years. He resigned to resume teaching, which profession he followed till 1906, when he was elected to the office of County Treasurer and Collector of Franklin County, serving four years. In 1910 he became Deputy County Treasurer to his successor J. A. McClintock, serving four years as such deputy. In 1914 he was reelected County Treasurer, which office he now holds. In 1908 he was elected city clerk of the city of Benton, Ill., which office he has held continuously since.

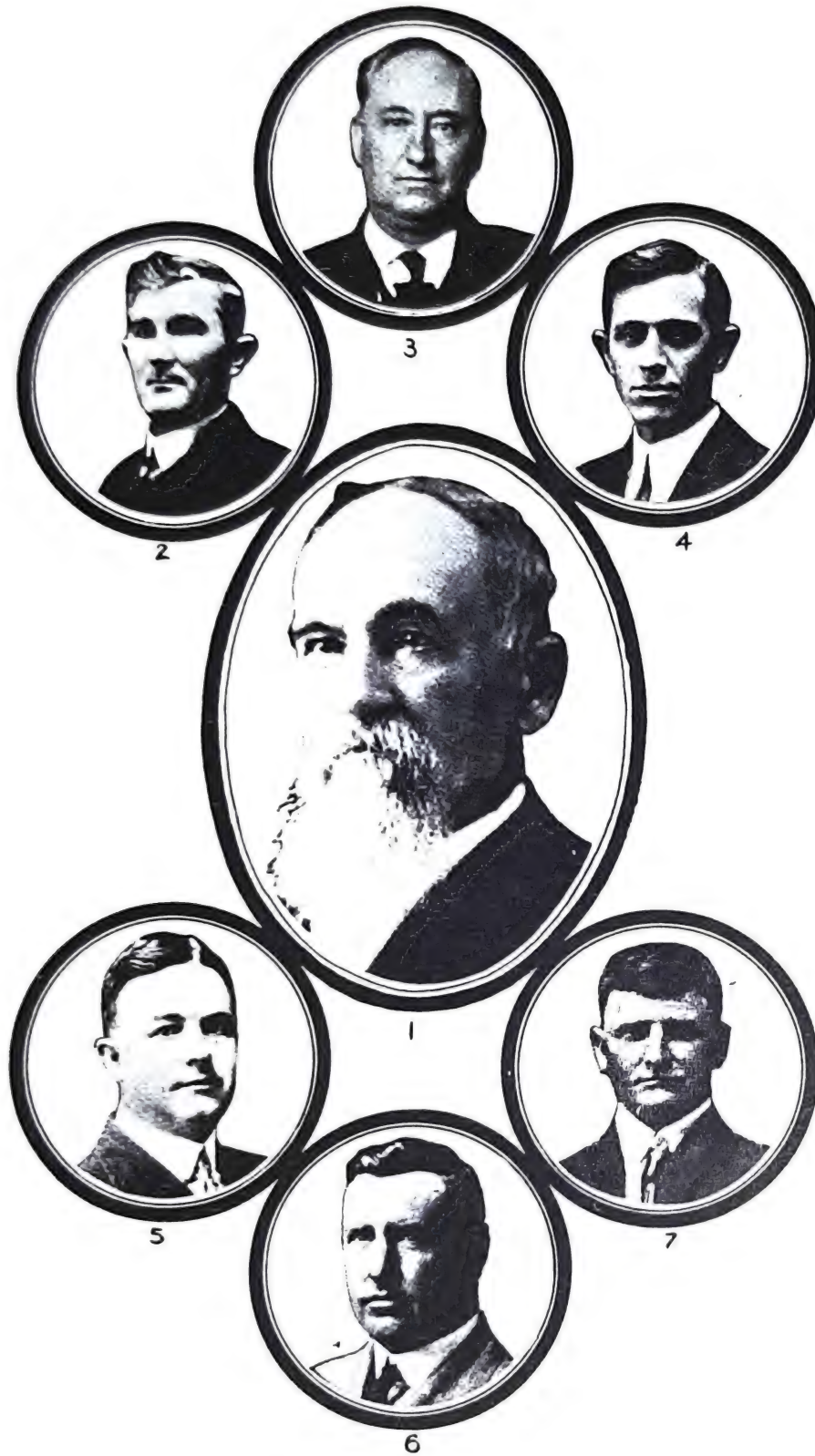
#### *H. Clay Ing.*

H. Clay Ing, County Superintendent of Schools, was born in Frankfort Township in Franklin County, Illinois, December 18, 1879. At an early age his parents moved to Cave Township one and one-half miles west of Thompsonville, where the subject of this sketch grew to manhood. He attended the common school at Parrish, two miles from his home, until he completed the common school course and obtained a teacher's second grade certificate. He taught his first school at Oak Hill in Ewing Township in the year 1898-99 and has been actively engaged in school work in Franklin County ever since.

He is the son of James M. and Melvina Ing. His paternal grandparents were Christopher and Polly Ing. His maternal grandparents were Leonard and Polly Branson.

Mr. Ing's common school education has been supplemented by high school and normal work obtained by persistent effort on his part, assisted by such schools as he was able to attend.

He was elected to the office of County Superintendent of Schools in 1914.



1—W. D. Seeber, County Clerk  
2—F. D. Whittington, Circuit Clerk  
3—Q. E. Burgess, County Treasurer  
4—H. Clay Ing, County Superintendent of Schools  
5—Roy C. Martin, State's Attorney  
6—Nealy I. Glenn, County Judge  
7—Wm. R. Browning, Jr., Coroner



*F. D. Whittington.*

F. D. Whittington, circuit clerk of Franklin County, was born in Northern Township in this county, Oct. 26, 1876. He is the son of William Jasper and Phoebe (Bain) Whittington; he received his scholastic training in the public schools of Franklin County; began teaching school in 1898 and taught five terms. After this he was elected town clerk of Benton Township, 1902, again in 1910, 1912, and 1914. Wm. Whittington was elected circuit clerk in 1916. His term will expire in 1920.

*Robert S. Watkins.*

Robert S. Watkins, Sheriff of Franklin County, was born in Allen County, Kentucky, March 1, 1861, and moved to Franklin County in 1879. He served the people of Cave Township as constable eight years.

Mr. Watkins received the nomination on the Republican ticket in 1898, but was defeated by J. B. Moore by thirty-one votes.

He was appointed Night Deputy Warden of the Southern Illinois Penitentiary and served in that capacity for five years.

The County Board of Franklin County appointed Mr. Watkins sheriff of the county to fill out the unexpired term of S. M. Locklar, deceased.

*Wm. R. Browning, Jr.*

William R. Browning, Jr., County Coroner of Franklin County, was born in Browning Township, July 31, 1872. He is a son of one of the twins—the first white children born in the county. He received his education in the common school of the county. He was elected constable of Browning Township and served in that capacity for four years. Next he was elected supervisor of the same township. Mr. Browning was elected coroner of the county in 1916 for a term of four years.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1—William Witlis, Chairman  
 2—M. G. McCreery  
 3—Andrew Phillips  
 4—Riley Burton  
 5—E. B. Ragland

6—J. A. Freeman  
 7—Daniel McPhail  
 8—Frank Easley  
 9—J. E. Hand



*Roy C. Martin.*

Roy C. Martin, State's Attorney of Franklin County, was born near Royalton, December 2, 1882. He is a son of John and Mary (Vaughn) Martin. He was educated in the common schools and later attended Ewing College. He was appointed assistant bookkeeper of the Southern Illinois Penitentiary and served in this capacity four years. He entered the University of Valparaiso, Indiana, 1911. He was admitted to the practice of law in this state, 1914.

Mr. Martin served as prosecuting attorney for the city of Benton. He was elected State's Attorney of this county in 1916 for a term of four years.

*Nealy I. Glenn.*

Nealy I. Glenn, County Judge of Franklin County, was born near Logan, in Franklin County, October 13, 1887. He is a son of John and Lavina (Bell) Glenn. Mr. Glenn attended the common schools completing his course there, entering Ewing College, where he finished the course.

He took one term in Valparaiso University and later entered the University of Arkansas, where he completed the law course. He taught school for four years after which he was admitted to the bar in this county. Mr. Glenn was elected County Judge of this county in 1914.

LIST OF OFFICERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY.  
MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE.

Elijah Ewing . . . . .	1818	1820		
Thomas M. Dorris . . . . .	1820	1824	1826	1828
John Dement . . . . .	1830	1832		
George P. Bayer . . . . .	1832	1834	1836	
A. D. Dollins . . . . .	1836	1838	1840	
Willis Allen (Senator) . . . . .	1844	1848		
Braxton Parrish . . . . .	1844	1846		
Walter S. Aiken . . . . .	1846	1848		
William A. Denning . . . . .	1846	1848		



Thomas M. Sams . . . . .	1850	1852	1854
James Hampton . . . . .	1858	1860	
John Ward . . . . .	1864	1866	
C. C. Payne . . . . .	1868	1870	
W. W. Barr . . . . .	1870	1872	
Peter Phillips . . . . .	1876	1878	
Thos. M. Mooneyham . . . . .	1880	1882	
W. W. Hoskinson . . . . .	1882	1884	1886
Q. E. Browning . . . . .	1884	1886	
W. S. Crim . . . . .	1887	1888	
Thos. Sullivan . . . . .	1888	1890	
W. J. N. Moyers . . . . .	1890	1892	
M. N. Webb . . . . .	1890	1892	
W. L. Eskew . . . . .	1902	1904	
R. D. Kirkpatrick . . . . .	1904	1906	1908 1910 1912
W. W. Williams . . . . .	1904	1906	
J. W. Crawford . . . . .	1908	1910	
S. B. Espy . . . . .	1908	1910	
Dr. D. T. Woodard (Senator) . .	1912	1916	
C. A. Stewart . . . . .	1914	1916	
E. J. Odum . . . . .	1916	1918	

From the above list it is seen Elijah Ewing of Frankfort was the first member of the Legislature from this county.

Thomas M. Dorris served three terms in the Legislature from 1820 to 1830.

A. D. Dollins of Benton, father of Uncle Joe Dollins, served five terms and sat in the Legislature with Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas.

It seems Franklin County has not been productive of senatorial timber, only two persons having represented the county in the senate—Willis Allen and Dr. D. T. Woodard. Hon. R. D. Kirkpatrick of Benton has the distinction of having served a longer time in the Legislature than anyone.

## COUNTY CLERKS.

S. M. Hubbard . . . . .	1838	1845	
W. A. Denning			
John Edgerly			
Sam K. Casey			
.....assisted in the Clerk's office			
W. R. Browning . . . . .	1846	1853	
Thos. J. Mooneyham . . . . .	1853	1857	
James L. Dollins . . . . .	1857	1861	
Calvin M. Clark . . . . .	1861	1873	
E. Fitzgerald . . . . .	1873	1877	
Chas. A. Aiken . . . . .	1877	1882	
T. P. Harrison . . . . .	1882	1886	1890
J. M. Joplin . . . . .	1890	1894	
J. C. Stanfield . . . . .	1894	1897	
W. P. Asa . . . . .	1897	1902	
W. D. Seeber . . . . .	1902	1918	

## CIRCUIT CLERKS.

S. M. Hubbard . . . . .	1837	1846	
Wm. R. Browning . . . . .	1846	1853	
Thos. J. Mooneyham . . . . .	1853	1857	
Lemuel R. Harrison . . . . .	1857	1860	
W. W. Martin . . . . .	1860	1861	
C. M. Clark . . . . .	1861	1863	
Wm. B. Kelley . . . . .	1863	1864	
Carroll Payne . . . . .	1864	1865	
John A. Rodman . . . . .	1865	1867	
J. S. Barr . . . . .	1867	1868	
T. M. Mooneyham . . . . .	1868	1876	
Robt. H. Flannigan . . . . .	1876	1880	
James F. Mason . . . . .	1880	1884	
W. F. Spiller . . . . .	1884	1888	
W. B. Webb . . . . .	1888	1892	
G. B. Shaw . . . . .	1892	1896	

H. R. Dial . . . . .	1896	1898
W. F. Burkitt . . . . .	1898	1904
James J. Hill . . . . .	1904	1916
Delmar Whittington . . . . .	1916	1920

## SHERIFFS.

David Maxwell . . . . .	1820	1828
Thos. J. Mansfield . . . . .	1828	1832
John Crawford . . . . .	1832	1836
Willis Allen . . . . .	1836	1838
Wm. S. Crawford . . . . .	1838	1841
Benj. Smith . . . . .	1841	1842
Geo. W. Aiken . . . . .	1842	1848
Thos. J. Mooneyham . . . . .	1848	1849
Thos. J. Mooneyham . . . . .	1849	1853
Lewis G. Payne . . . . .	1853	1855
Wm. Mooneyham . . . . .	1855	1857
James Swofford . . . . .	1857	1859
Wm. Mooneyham . . . . .	1859	1860
Marion D. Hoge . . . . .	1860	1862
John Denning . . . . .	1862	1864
Isaac Ward . . . . .	1864	1866
M. D. Hoge . . . . .	1866	1868
W. B. Denning . . . . .	1868	1870
Carroll Moore . . . . .	1870	1872
Cyrus D. Means . . . . .	1872	1874
J. F. Mason . . . . .	1874	1876
James M. Aiken . . . . .	1876	1878
W. D. Seeber . . . . .	1878	1880
Wm. R. Jones . . . . .	1880	1886
John B. Moore . . . . .	1886	1890
W. B. Blake . . . . .	1890	1894
R. E. Cook . . . . .	1894	1898
J. B. Moore . . . . .	1898	1902
George J. Stein . . . . .	1902	1906
Thos. Odum . . . . .	1906	1910



John Vaughn .....	1910	1914
Mint Lockler .....	1914	1917
Samuel Watkins .....	1917	1918

## COUNTY TREASURERS.

J. M. Vancil .....	1869	1871
John W. Hill .....	1871	1873
T. W. Sweet .....	1873	1877
A. C. Stalcup .....	1877	1882
S. W. Swain .....	1882	1886
J. A. Dollins .....	1886	1890
T. M. Webb .....	1890	1894
W. R. Browning .....	1894	1898
J. A. Dollins .....	1898	1902
W. R. Browning .....	1902	1906
Q. E. Burgess .....	1906	1910
J. A. McClintock .....	1910	1914
Q. E. Burgess .....	1914	1918

## STATES ATTORNEYS.

Samuel Marshall .....	1837	1839
Wm. H. Stickney .....	1839	1841
Willis Allen .....	1841	1845
W. A. Denning .....	1845	1847
Samuel Marshall .....	1847	1850
Wm. K. Parrish .....	1850	1853
M. C. Crawford .....	1853	1854
John A. Logan .....	1854	1857
M. C. Crawford .....	1857	1859
Edward V. Pierce .....	1859	1861
J. M. Cleminson .....	1861	1863
A. P. Corden .....	1863	1864
C. N. Damron .....	1864	1869
F. M. Youngblood .....	1869	1872
W. W. Barr .....	1872	1877

W. J. N. Moyers.....	1877	1881
John A. Treece.....	1881	1886
W. S. Cantrell.....	1886	1888
T. M. Mooneyham.....	1888	1892
W. F. Spiller.....	1892	1896
R. H. Flannigan.....	1896	1900
T. J. Myers.....	1900	1904
W. P. Seeber.....	1904	1908
Geo. Hickman.....	1908	1912
W. F. Spiller.....	1912	1916
Roy C. Martin.....	1916	1920

## COUNTY JUDGES.

Andrew J. Duff.....	1849	1853
John Duff.....	1853	1857
Moses Neal.....	1857	1857
W. R. Browning.....	1857	1859
W. J. Dillon.....	1859	1861
Walter S. Aiken.....	1861	1862
John W. Hill.....	1862	1865
W. E. Smith.....	1865	1869
D. M. Browning.....	1869	1879
William H. Williams.....	1879	1886
W. J. N. Moyers.....	1886	1890
R. H. Flannigan.....	1890	1894
W. F. Dillon.....	1894	1898
W. H. Hart.....	1898	1902
J. P. Mooneyham.....	1902	1906
T. J. Myers.....	1906	1910
Thos. J. Layman.....	1910	1914
Nealy I. Glenn.....	1914	1918

## CIRCUIT JUDGES.

Walter B. Scates.....	1832	1847
Wm. A. Denning.....	1847	1854

Wm. K. Parrish.....	1854	1859	
Wm. J. Allen.....	1859	1861	
Andrew J. Duff.....	1861	1875	
Monroe C. Crawford.....	1875	1878	
John Dougherty .....	1878	1879	
Daniel M. Browning.....	1879	1883	
David J. Baker.....	1883	1885	
R. W. McCartney.....	1885	1891	
O. A. Harker.....	1885	1891	1897
A. K. Vickers .....	1891	1897	
J. P. Roberts.....	1888	1891	
G. W. Young.....	1897	1903	
F. D. Youngblood.....	1897	1915	
E. E. Newland.....	1897	1909	
P. A. Pierce .....	1903	1915	
J. R. Creighton.....	1909	1915	
W. H. Green.....	1915	1921	
C. H. Miller.....	1915	1921	
J. C. Eagleton.....	1915	1921	
Julius C. Kern.....			

## CORONERS.

A. H. Cook.....	1876	1878
John Mulkey .....	1878	1880
J. H. Fleeman .....	1880	1882
James J. Miller.....	1882	1883
John L. Ragland.....	1883	1888
E. D. Palmer .....	1888	1892
Isham Taylor .....	1892	1904
J. M. Adams.....	1904	1908
Thos. Dye .....	1908	1912
C. C. Biggs.....	1912	1916
Wm. R. Browning.....	1916	1920



## SURVEYORS.

Lemuel R. Harrison.....			
Herbert W. Perry.....			
Solomon Webb . . . . .			
Elijah T. Webb.....			
Calvin M. Clark.....			
W. W. Whittington.....	1875	1884	
I. R. Spillman.....	1884	1888	
Philip Lager . . . . .	1888	1892	1896
Chas. Stilley . . . . .	1896	1900	1904
Henry Moore . . . . .	1904	1908	1912
Curtis Smith . . . . .	1912	1916	
Marshall Neal . . . . .	1916	1920	

## CHAPTER XX.

### FRANKLIN COUNTY IN WAR.

Franklin County has furnished more than her share of soldiers in all the wars in which our government has been engaged.

Three Revolutionary soldiers lie buried in Franklin County. In the War of 1812 the county sent four soldiers to help Andrew Jackson defeat the British at New Orleans.

In 1832 our county was fourteen years old and contained a population of 4,083 yet the county sent three full companies of soldiers that offered their services in the Black Hawk War.

At that time Franklin had not been divided and Williamson was a part of the county. Below are the names of the men who volunteered for service in this Indian war.

First Company—Captain, Geo. P. Boyer, Lieutenants, Jacob Phillip and Thomas P. Moore; Sergeants, Thos. Adams, Jacob Clark and Edward Franklin; Corporals, William Fleming, William Aiken and Augustus Adams; Bugler, William Whittington; Privates, Benjamin Adams, Thomas Bevers, James Bowling, Benj. Bowling, Henry Bowyer, Jacob Bailey, James Browning, William Clampet, Evan and Jesse Cleveland, Reuben Clark, John P. Due, Vackel Dillingham, Absalom Estes, James Farris, Joseph Gifford, Thos. Hale, Moses Jordan, Elijah Jordan, James Jordan, Nathan Morgan, Aaron Neal, James Plasters, Abraham Redburn, James and Noah Summers, James Schoolcraft, John Slater, Benj. and James Whittington, Benj. Williams, William Ward and Joseph Western.

Second Company—Captain, William J. Stephenson; Lieutenant, Tramel Ewing; Sergeants, John P. Maddox, Anderson P. Carder, Henry Hays and J. T. Knox; Corporals, Thomas Province and Michael Rawlins; Musician, Walter B. Scates; Privates, John Rabbitt, Joseph B. Denning, Elisha Eubanks,

Anderson P. Farris, Hes and Robert Garrett, William Gassaway, Benj. F. Hickman, John Hays, William Hubbard, Lewis Hollen, Nat Jones, Thos. Knox, Larkin Lynch, William P. Maddox, Andrew Miller, Moses Neal, Benj. W. Pope, Henry Rotramel, Andrew Robertson, Ezekial Rawlings, Wilson Rea, Harvey Swofford, H. M. Silkwood and Benj. Talbot.

The Third Company—Captain, Obediah West; Lieutenants, Robert West and Hugh Parks; Sergeants, Wilie Scott and William Henry; Corporal, Moses Odum; Privates, James Browning, Pleasant Bradley, Wash Beasley, Edward Franklin, Isaac Graves, Jabez Hooker, Augustus Henry, Giles Joiner, Henry Layman, Junior Meridith, William Murphy, Albert Province, Thomas Pulley, Sam Parks, Richard Price, Andrew Price, David H. Springs, Robert Northern, John Ward, Dickson Ward, Robert Watson, Isaac Youngblood and Zack George.

These companies after having served until the war was over were mustered out of service at Dixon Ferry, Aug. 7, 1832.

In this war, Abraham Lincoln served as captain, also Jefferson Davis served as captain in the "Regular Army."

These pioneer soldiers have all answered the "Last call." but some of them lived till a few years ago.

### THE MEXICAN WAR.

The next war in which Franklin County was affected, was the Mexican War. In this war Company K of the Sixth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers was raised at Benton and mustered into the service with its regiment at Alton, Illinois. Capt. John Ewing known as "Jack Ewing" was made captain and died at Tampico, Mexico. This Mr. Ewing helped to start Benton and Ewing Post Office took its name from him. Thos. J. Mooneyham became captain at the death of Capt. Ewing, and Daniel Mooneyham became first lieutenant.

This company did not do much fighting, as the fighting



was about over when they reached the scene of action.

Thirty of the 102 in this company died in Mexico. Thirteen were discharged and the rest—fifty-one—just half of the number enlisted returned home.

### THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.

One would suppose that most of the citizens of Franklin County in 1861 would sympathize with the Southern Cause since so many of the emigrants came from the South but the large numbers that enlisted in the cause to suppress the Rebellion proved that the reverse was true. The stirring appeal of the fife and drum, together with the patriotic addresses caused the boys to "fall in line" and march in defense of their country.

In May, 1861, was organized the first company of soldiers, containing eighty-nine men and was mustered into the U. S. service as Company C of the Eighteenth Illinois Infantry of which Michael K. Lawler of Gallatin County was the first colonel.

The commissioned officers were Capt. William S. Crawford, Lieutenants William J. Dillon and Andrew J. Ice. William J. Dillon was killed while bravely leading his command. In addition to the eighty-nine men of Co. C, forty-two men enlisted from the county and were assigned to other companies. Alfred Ewing of this company was the first soldier to die from Franklin County.

Another company containing twenty-three men enlisted from the county and the balance of the company was made up from adjoining counties and was organized at Benton on the 18th day of September and were mustered into the service as Co. I of the Thirty-first of which John A. Logan, a prominent lawyer who lived in Benton from 1854 to 1859 was made colonel. John Mooneyham of Benton was first lieutenant. Lieut. Mooneyham resigned and Carroll Moore finally became captain. Sixteen recruits joined this company from the county making thirty-nine in all who served in this company.

A company of cavalry was organized in Benton in August, 1861, and temporarily attached to the Thirty-first Infantry but later mustered into the service as Company C of the Fifteenth Cavalry. The company contained ninety-one Franklin County boys. Capt. John J. Dillon; Lieutenants, M. Fitts and Oliver C. Martin. Capt. Dollins became colonel of the Eighty-first and was killed at Ft. Pemberton, near Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863. Lieutenant Fitts became captain of Company C. Thirty-three more men from the county joined this company, making 124 men in all. There were also four Franklin men who entered the service in Company E of this same regiment.

Another regiment of cavalry was organized in Benton in September, 1862, with seventy-two Franklin County men and was mustered into the service as Co. F of the Fifteenth Illinois Cavalry. This company afterwards received two recruits from the county, making in all seventy-four men. Capt. Joseph Adams; Lieutenants, Geo. T. Hubbard and George W. Stewart, all of Benton.

Company A of the Fortieth Illinois Infantry was raised in Franklin and Hamilton Counties in July, 1862. It contained only ten men from Franklin County. Co. F of this same regiment was raised in the eastern part of the county. The old drill grounds was first at Knob Prairie Church then later moved to Aiken McLean's pasture where they drilled to August 3, and then made their departure for the service. At the organization it contained fifty-two men and later received thirty-two men more, making eighty-four for this county. Tilman Shirley was made captain, Lieutenants, Wm. T. Ingram and Joseph Ing, C. C. Ing, Sr., became captain later. The Forty-ninth Illinois Infantry was organized in Jefferson County mainly in October 1861, contained ten Franklin County boys.

Co. I, of the Fifty-sixth Illinois Infantry was organized in December, 1861, with forty-four men from the county. William B. Dillon was made captain, and James M. Aiken lieutenant.

Co. E, of the same regiment had eight men from the county.

Co. F, Sixty-third Illinois Infantry raised in Franklin County was mustered into service the 10th of April, 1862. Wm. Davis of Mulkeytown became captain.

Co. B, Eighty-ninth Illinois Infantry, was organized at Frankfort in August, 1862, and contained eighty-six men from this county. Captain, Travis O. Spencer; Lieutenants, Henry W. Smith and Horace W. Adams, all from Franklin County.

Companies A, F, and I, of the One Hundred and Tenth Illinois Infantry, was raised and organized at Benton in August, 1862. Co. A contained 89 men; F, 81; I, 85, and K, 25 men, all from Franklin County, thus making 280 men. Daniel Mooneyham of Benton was major. Captain Co. A, Marion D. Page; Lieutenants, Green M. Cantrell and William B. Denning. Co. F, Capt., Grayson DeWitt; Lieutenants, Carroll Payne and Jesse G. Payne. Co. I, Capt., William L. Britton; Lieutenants, William S. Bales and William W. M. Amie. Co. K, Capt., Mark Harper; Lieutenants, J. I. Wycough and John T. Barnett. The colonel of One Hundred Tenth Illinois Infantry was Thos. K. Casey.

Co. A, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Illinois Infantry, contained fifty-four Franklin County men. Capt., William J. Mayers; Lieutenants, Alex Royall, M. V. B. Dial.

Co. K, of the Thirteenth Illinois Cavalry, had 42 men from the county. Henry W. Smith of Benton was captain and John Scarborough of Ewing was lieutenant.

Co. A, One Hundred Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, contained 38 men from the county. Geo. T. Hubbard was first lieutenant of this company.

Co. K, Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, had 16 men from the county. Co. H, One Hundred Fifty-third Illinois Infantry, was mustered into service in February, 1865, and mustered out in September of the same year. This company had 11 men.

Co. K, Seventy-first Illinois Infantry, organized 1862, contained 24 men from the county.



The total of all men in the service as taken from Adjutant General of Illinois report shows that Franklin County furnished 1110 men out of a population of about 9,000 people.

Although Franklin County as a whole manifested a great loyalty to the Union, as shown by the above, yet a portion of her citizens at the outbreak of the war were in deep sympathy with the Southern Cause and a few of them actually entered the Confederate Army. When the Spanish American War came on the sons of these noble sires who fought in the Civil War answered to President McKinley, "We are ready." Col. James R. Campbell of McLeansboro raised a regiment in Southern Illinois. Co. F was from Franklin County. James M. Joplin of Benton was the first captain. He resigned after being out some time and Robt. E. Hickman became captain. Lieutenants, Simeon Moore and Ransom Dial.

Almost twenty years have elapsed from the time of the Spanish-American War and we again are engaged in the greatest conflict the world has ever known. Franklin County has always done her part in all the wars, and she is not failing to do her part in this conflict. Capt. O. C. Smith, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, organized a company of State Militia about 1914, known as Co. F, Fourth Illinois National Guards. This Co. F was called out to the border of Mexico and served about 9 months. When the U. S. declared war on Germany, Co. F was ready and with her military experience a large number of old Co. F became efficient officers in other military units. Co. F took from the county about 130 men. About that many have joined the navy, regular army or special army service. At this date, July 25, more than 1,000 men from the county are in the National Army. The total from the county to date is about 1500 men. Three of the boys from Franklin County have already fallen in battle.

As the American soldiers are drilled, trained and fully prepared for battle they have been sent to the front.

The World War began in August, 1914, but the U. S.

did not enter till April, 1917. Up to this time the armies of the Central Powers and the Allies seemed to have been well matched. Since the trained Yankee soldiers began to fight, they have not lost a battle but have been successful on every battlefield so far. The citizens of Franklin County are led to believe when her sons get into the fray, they will give a good report of themselves. It is hard indeed for the good mothers to send their sons to fight "Over Seas." All of the bravery in this war is not centered on the battle field. In the American homes that give up boys for the great struggle, of "Safe for Democracy" are brave and stout hearts who can endure this trying ordeal.

Let us

"Keep the home fires burning  
Till the boys come home."

## CHAPTER XXI.

### EDUCATION.

The early settlers of Franklin County did not have the advantage of schools. About 1824, a school was opened up in the Dillon Settlement in the vicinity of Parrish. The first school teacher was Sion Mitchell, the father of Rev. J. G. Mitchell who lived in Benton for a great many years.

The first school house in Franklin County did not have any floor, nor chimney, the fire was in the middle of the house, and smoke passed up through the roof. The seats were made of split logs, with holes bored in each end, and legs inserted. The text-books used in the early schools were Webster's Blue Back Speller, and McGuffey's readers. Only advanced students were given arithmetic.

The teachers of the early days, were so limited in education that they would contract with the parents of the children "to teach spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic to the rule of three." There were no blackboard, teacher's desk, maps or charts. The Dillon Settlement just north of Parrish was a community that maintained a school. In the vicinity of Fitt's Hill was another, in the vicinity of old Mulkeytown another, and on Webb's Prairie another, making in all four settlements or communities that occasionally kept up a "subscription" school.

As the county grew in population, more schools were opened up. This system of schools continued till about 1849.

The first laws passed for the benefit of the schools were enacted in 1849, which were called "Free schools."

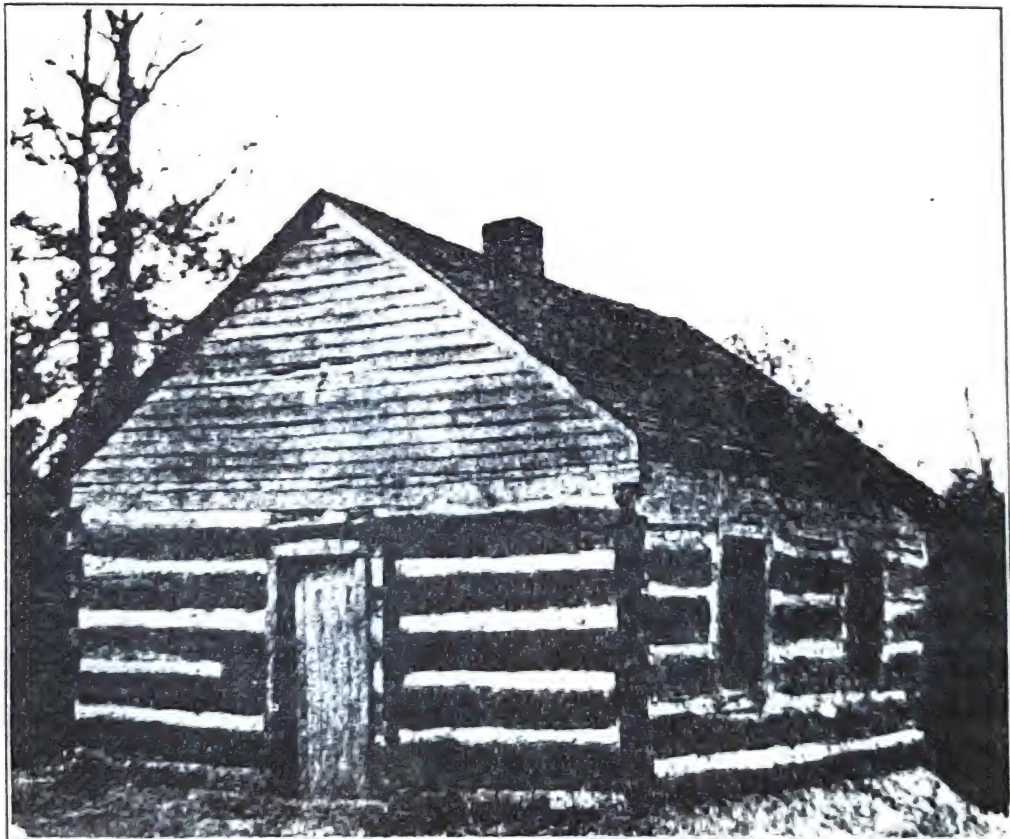
This law made the Secretary of State, ex-officio state superintendent of schools, provided for a county school commissioner, created school districts, provided for directors of same, created the school township and provided for a school



treasurer of the township. The law also provided for the people of each school district to meet on the first Saturday in May and vote for or against a tax for school purposes. As many of the early settlers came from states where "free school" had never been established and where prejudice against free schools was intense, the early so-called free schools were a farce.

The prejudice and whims of the people must be overcome and the law must be made obligatory before the real free school could exist. In February, 1857, the legislature of Illinois passed a new act to establish and maintain free schools, which provided for the election of a state superintendent of schools, for the election of county school commissioners and making it obligatory on the part of the officers to enforce the law.

The constitution of 1870 created the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction and defined the duties of the



PIONEER SCHOOL HOUSE

officer. The office of County Superintendent of Schools was also created and his duties defined.

With the school laws of 1857 and the constitution of 1870 creating office of State Superintendent of Schools and County Superintendent of Schools, the school system of Illinois has become very efficient.

From three or four communities maintaining schools the county system of schools has grown till now the county has 107 school districts, including three high schools and one non-high school district.

The school population of 1818 probably was not more than 500, the school population in 1918 is more than 25,000.

The first school houses were built of logs or poles with stick and clay chimney. The house was covered with clapboard, held on by laying on heavy poles. The huge fireplace usually took most of one end of the house. The teacher and children gathered the wood from the surrounding forest.

The first frame county schoolhouse was called the Frame just east of Parrish. Contrast this condition with our present condition. Modern schoolhouses well lighted, ventilated, heated, seated and with all the appliances that a teacher could wish.

The county now has splendid school buildings. The old log house has long since disappeared and has been replaced by the modern brick or frame. The school buildings at Benton, Frankfort, Thompsonville, Logan, Zeigler, Christopher, and Sesser can not be excelled anywhere in the state or nation.

The legislature of 1841, incorporated the Benton Academy with Walter S. Aiken, John Ewing, John P. Maddox, Zack Sullens, Thomas Thompson, John Edgerly, Benj. Smith, Abraham Rea, Wm. Browning, Silas M. Williams, Moses Neal, John Dillon and Lemuel Harrison as trustees.

The trustees purchased a lot and put up a two-story frame building. This was the first graded or high school in the county. The new academy was a failure and the trustees sold the property to the Benton School District. In 1868 the first



brick school building in the county was erected on this lot, and in later years was known as the Logan School building. This building was torn down in 1917 and a building erected on the south part of this lot.

About 1841 the legislature created the "Fancy Farm" College, about two miles from the Old Jordan Fort. Alex McCreery, Henry Yost, Sion Mitchell, Richard Cantrell and Wm. Jones were named as the trustees.

The object of the school was to promote science and literature. The college did not flourish however. Nothing now remains of it but the "Fancy Farm."

In this same locality there was a graded school for many years, which had a telling influence on the community.

In 1864, Dr. John Washburn, a refugee from Tennessee on account of his union sentiments, landed in Marion, Ill., then proceeded to Crawford's Prairie on the north where he opened a school. His fame as a teacher spread. Then for three years he was principal of the Benton High School. In 1867, he



MODERN SCHOOL BUILDING—JORDAN SCHOOL, 1918



began a select school at Frizzell Prairie Baptist Church. During the time of this select school the citizens organized the Ewing High School. In 1874, the Ewing High School was merged into Ewing College. Dr. Washburn was president of the college except about four years, until about 1891 when Dr. J. A. Leavitt became president and continued so for many years. Since then, Prof. Arthur Summers has been president.

The college has flourished and has been a "Beacon light throughout all Egypt" and even extending its bright light far beyond the limits of Egypt.

Dr. Washburn has gone from us. He is buried in another county, at McLeansboro, but he lives on in the hearts of his friends in Franklin County. His precepts, and noble manhood will live on in the hearts of the people, and will need no "Marker" to point out where he stood.

The history of Ewing College would not be complete without mentioning some of the citizens who worked with Dr. Washburn in establishing the college.

Hon. R. R. Link was an untiring worker and was the secretary as long as he lived.

He was the magnet who drew students to the college. Many a poor boy has been given encouragement and hope by the solicitations of Mr. Link.

Those citizens of the vicinity of Ewing who gave their money and put their whole soul into it to make it a success are: Wm. A. King, E. T. and John S. Webb, R. Richeson, John W. Hill and R. R. Link. These men put the burden of establishing the college upon their shoulders and heroically carried the institution until it could stand upon its own base.

The college has been a great factor in the educational development of Franklin County. The college has been the leaven in the bread. It has been the means of bringing the people to a higher plane of living. In the shadows of the closing century of Franklin County's history, all take pride in saying Ewing College has been a large factor in its development.

The following school superintendents have served Franklin County since 1849:

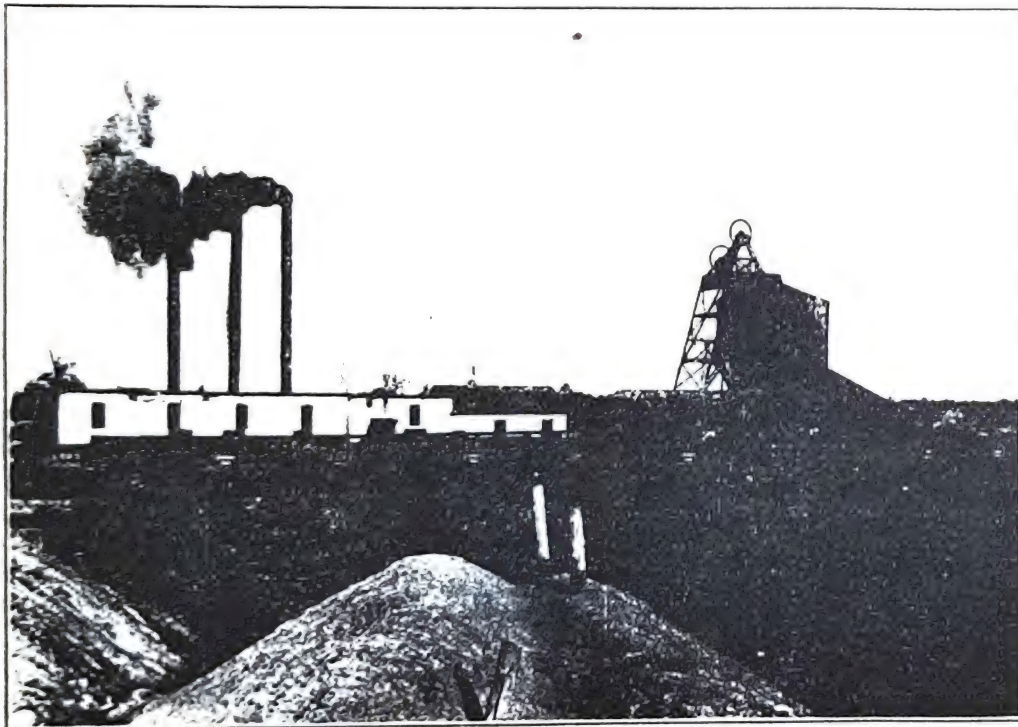
Sion Mitchell .....	1849-1854
Lewis C. Payne.....	1849-1854
Peter Phillips .....	1858-1861
John Ward .....	1861-1865
R. R. Link.....	1865-1873
G. C. Ross.....	1873-1874
H. A. Doty.....	1874-1877
C. D. Threlkeld.....	1877-1881
Elijah Rotramel .....	1881-1882
C. D. Threlkeld.....	1882-1890
W. F. Dillon.....	1890-1894
H. M. Aiken.....	1894-1898
W. S. Buntin.....	1898-1902
H. M. Aiken.....	1902-1906
Offa Neal .....	1906-1910
C. W. Mundell.....	1910-1914
H. Clay Ing.....	1914-1918

## CHAPTER XXII.

### COAL AND THE COAL INDUSTRY.

The history of Franklin County written in 1886 has the following to say about coal in the county: "The coal of Franklin County is of little value, the seams being uniformly too thin for working, and there is no out crop of stratified rocks in any of the deep gulleys that furrow the sides of the Frankfort Hill. Coal No. 7 is believed to underlie the county at a depth averaging from about 150 feet in the northern and western portions to about 500 feet in the central and southern portions, too deep for profitable investment in mining operations at present."

From the above we would infer that if the coal investors and operators had been guided by this information nothing in the way of coal investments would have been made in Franklin County.



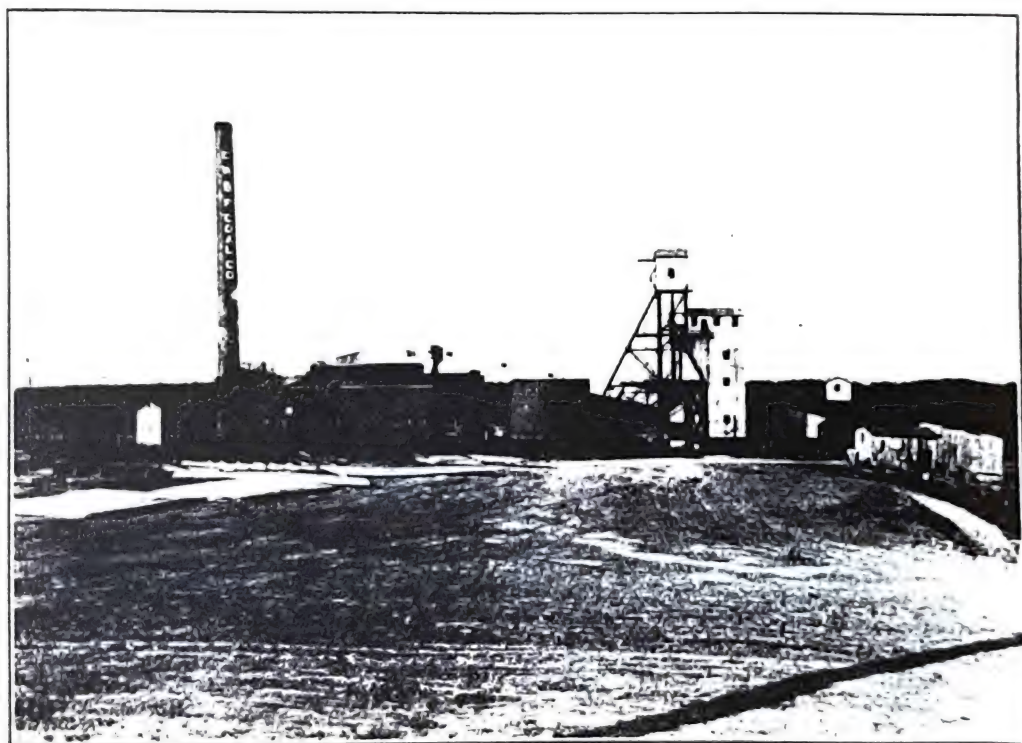
TAYLOR COAL COMPANY, POSSUM RIDGE, FREEMAN, ILLINOIS



I quote from the statement of a man who has a great deal of experience as a promoter and coal operator in Franklin County. "The most important element in the prosperity of Franklin County, has been and will continue to be the development of its coal fields.

"Practically the entire area of the county is underlaid with a deposit of coal of unusual quality. There are several veins of this coal, the most important of which is the No. 6 seam, now being worked at various points in the county, which vein lies at a depth of about 350 feet at the county line, increasing in depth at the rate of about 25 feet per mile following the dip towards the northeast. This vein has an average thickness of practically 9 feet.

"Below this No. 6 vein running from 4½ to 5 feet in average thickness, which up to the present time, has not hardly been taken into account, on account of the superior thickness of the overlying No. 6 seam; but long before the No. 6 seam has been worked out, the lower or No. 5 seam will have attracted much



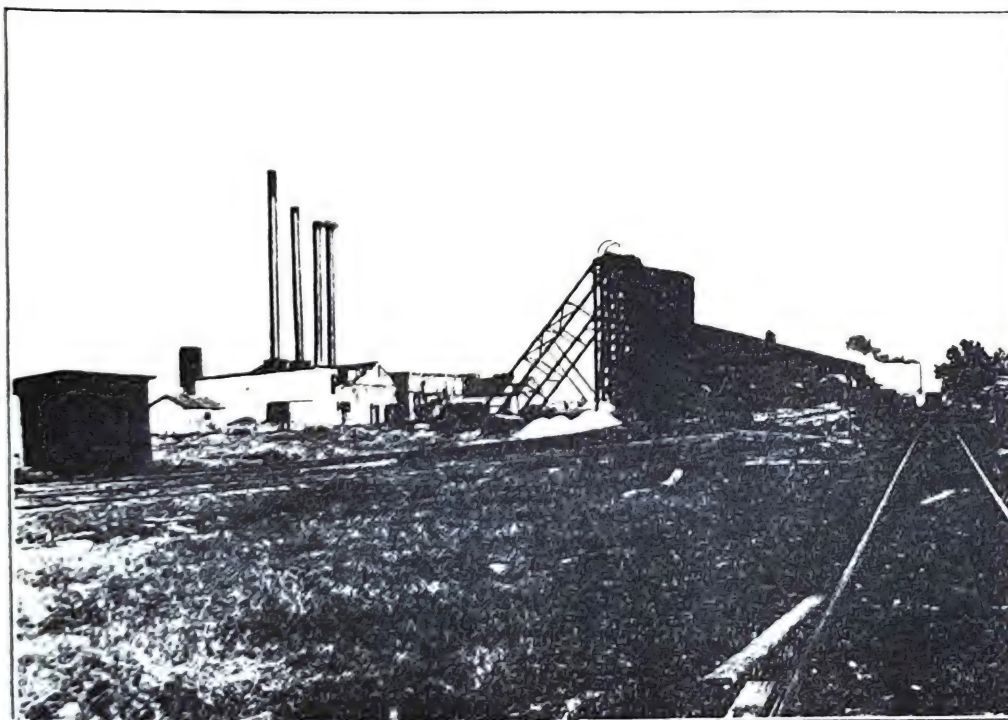
C. W. F. COAL COMPANY, ORIENT, ILLINOIS

attention and will be of great value on account of its quality and workable thickness. These two seams guarantee the permanence and importance of the coal industry for the next 100 years."

These statements do not agree, but we will be compelled to agree with the latter statement. The latter statement comes from a man who has had years of experience in prospecting, sinking shafts, and operating mines in different parts of the county. The statement that the two seams of Franklin County coal "guarantee the permanence and importance of the coal industry for the next 100 years" means a great deal to the county as a factor in its coal industry and all industries where coal is used.

The citizens of Benton prospected for artesian water to the depth of about 500 feet and failed to find any coal of much value. It was then generally accepted that there was no coal in this county.

Later, prospecting was done by W. P. Holliday, of Cairo,



WEST FRANKFORT COAL COMPANY, WEST FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS

who prospected for coal in Six Mile Township. He discovered a fine vein of coal but kept it as a secret until his death. It was reported that he intended to buy a large tract of land in Six Mile Township.

The next prospecting was done by the citizens of West Frankfort which discovered and proclaimed to the public the real Eldorado of Franklin County.

Joseph Leiter purchased 8,000 acres of coal land in Six Mile and Denning Townships in 1901 and developed one of the largest and best equipped mines in the state at that time. The seam on his tract averaged about 11 feet thick and of a superior quality of coal. This discovery of the county's wonderful resource caused a great demand for coal lands in the county.

Mr. Leiter saw the great value of this coal, and by careful advertising introduced his coal into the general market.

As the quality of this coal became generally known there was a general movement among coal men and transportation



TAYLOR COAL COMPANY, BENTON, ILLINOIS



lines to acquire holdings in this county. As a result of this movement there are 23 coal mines in the county and many miles of railroad have been built into the county.

Today, Franklin County produces more coal than any county in the state or United States. The annual production with all mines running is about \$60,000,000 of coal. There is more than \$1,200,000 paid out for labor each month in the year in this county.

The coal production in the county has caused the county to increase rapidly in population. In 1900 the population was about 20,000 people, now, it will approximate 60,000 people, three times its former population.

Franklin County must give the credit to Joseph Leiter for discovering its great resources and advertising the quality of its coal. Mr. Leiter built an industrial town and called it Zeigler for his father's middle name.

This town grew rapidly at first but serious labor trouble came up and, followed by an awful explosion in which many miners lost their lives, retarded its progress. The mining business at this point did not thrive so well for a while. Bell & Zoller took hold of the mine and it has been very successful

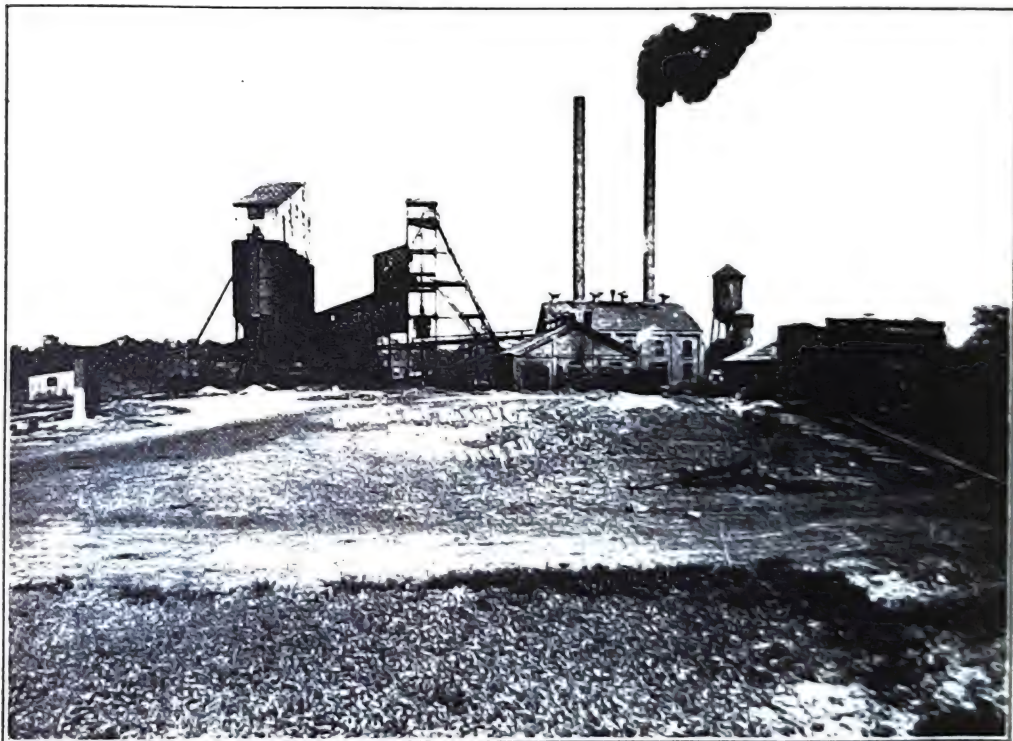


U. S. FUEL COMPANY, BENTON, ILLINOIS

since. They are sinking another mine south of the first mine which will doubtless be the largest mine in the state. The city of Zeigler is growing rapidly and will soon take her place among the fast growing cities of "Egypt."

While much credit is due Mr. Leiter for the discovery of the county's immense wealth, yet we must not forget the home people, who began developing our vast resources. The county must take off her hat to W. H. Hart and Walter W. Williams for their efforts in developing the coal industry at Benton and West Frankfort. They sank the shaft of the Deering Mine No. 11 then sold it and began developing at Benton. They organized the Benton Coal Company and this company developed the first mine at Benton. Later Hart & Williams sold out their interest and began developing the Hart-Williams Mine east of the Benton Coal Company.

A company of Benton people organized the Middle Fork Mining Co. and sank a shaft two miles east of Benton. This mine was sold to the U. S. Fuel Co., which has been improved



OLD BEN MINING COMPANY, BUCKNER, ILLINOIS

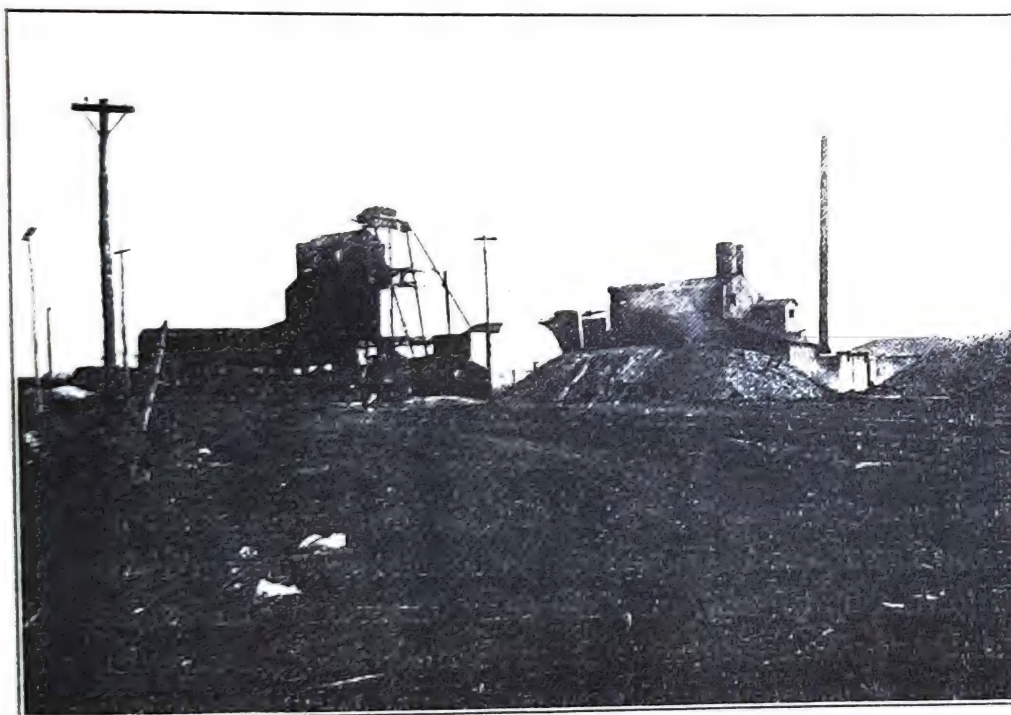


greatly. The Bunsen Coal Co. own more than 50,000 acres of coal land in the east part of the county, adjacent to this mine.

The Franklin County Coal Co. have developed a mine north east of Benton, though not of the largest size, the mine is being well equipped with modern improvements.

The Old Ben Corporation of Frankfort, Christopher and Buckner, is one of the greatest organizations for producing coal in the county. They have a mine in the south part of West Frankfort and one east of Frankfort Heights. Then at Christopher and Buckner they have four large mines in their organization. The Old Ben Coal is well known in the north and northwest. The Old Ben Coal Corporation is now sinking a shaft southwest of Frankfort. The name of the new town where the new mine is located is Pershing.

W. P. Rend & Co. is the name of a coal company located west of Benton about five miles. They operate another mine just over the line in Williamson County.



BLACK STAR COMPANY, LOGAN, ILLINOIS



The big coal companies operating in Franklin County are the Old Ben Corporation, the Bell & Zoller, Chicago, Wilmington and Franklin Coal Co., John A. Logan Coal Co., Franklin Coal and Coke Co., and T. C. Keller Coal Co.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### EARLY COURTS AND LAWYERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY.

*By Hon. T. J. Layman.*

On January 2, 1818, the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Illinois Territory passed an act creating the county of Franklin. In that act it was provided that until a permanent seat of Justice was established for said county and public buildings erected, all court should be held at the house of Moses Garret which was situated about 3 miles east of Old Frankfort.

In the year 1821 the town of Frankfort was located and platted and soon thereafter public buildings were erected. Owing to the fact that on November 18, 1843 the office of the circuit clerk of Franklin County was destroyed by fire, it is difficult to ascertain the exact date of the first court held in Franklin County. However, about the year 1822 circuit court convened at Frankfort, the presiding judge being Samuel D. Lockwood, a member of the Supreme Court. At that time our Supreme Court was composed of five judges who, after performing their duties on the Supreme Bench would separate and hold the several circuit courts of the state which were then but few in number. Up to the time of the removal of the county seat to Benton in the year 1841, supreme judges, Lockwood, Browne, Hardin, and Scates, presided over our circuit court.

In those days it was the custom of the lawyers to "ride the circuit" with the presiding judge. Old Frankfort was the scene of many a distinguished gathering. From Shawneetown on the east, Kaskaskia on the west, Cairo on the south and even as far north as Springfield, the lawyers would come to attend court.

At this day the lawyers of Franklin county are prone to grumble at the poor accommodations we have by reason of the insufficiency of our court house. A perusal of the early records of our county will show that in the "good old days" accommodations were not nearly so good as at the present time. At the September Term, 1837, the grand jury in its report to the judge has this to say relative to the condition of the court house and clerk's office at Old Frankfort:

"We, the Grand Jury, of the county of Franklin of the September Term of the circuit court thereof respectfully represent that they have had occasion to examine the public buildings of said county situate in the town of Frankfort, erected for the transaction of the public business and affairs of our county and in noting them we cannot but express our regret at the total unfitness of the court house and clerk's office for the uses designed. The clerk's office has been built about fifteen years and was of flimsy workmanship at best and is now from age anything but a fit building for the safe depository of the records of the county or an ornament to the county. The court house is of brick of mean dimensions, poor construction and badly finished; and it is now in a dilapidated state—both gable ends blown down and unfit for the change of the weather. The county of Perry has erected a good court house. Jefferson is about undertaking the same. Jackson long has had a tolerable one but unfinished. Pope, Gallatin and White with comparatively but little greater means have erected good court houses that are convenient buildings for the transaction of all public business. The reputation of this country is rapidly increasing as well as its taxable property and also the business of the country is rapidly increasing and requires more than its present conveniences for its transaction. The grand jury recommends to the County Commissioners' Court the propriety and necessity of contracting for the immediate construction of a court house for the county of Franklin with office room for the public offices of the county."



The first lawyer who was a permanent resident of Franklin county was an Englishman, named Richard Nelson, a native of the Isle of Man. Nelson, prior to the year 1830, when a very young man, came to the house of S. M. Hubbard, who was then the clerk of the circuit court at Frankfort, riding on a poor old horse which the Hubbards appropriately named "Bones." He lived with Mr. Hubbard for several years assisting him in his clerical duties and soon after coming to Frankfort began the practice of law. He was a diligent student and was said to be, when in his prime, the best Chancery lawyer and judge of law in Southern Illinois. He was tall, spare and commanding in appearance. His practice was extensive, extending throughout the southern part of our state. He died at Metropolis, many years ago.

Wm. A. Denning was the first native of Franklin county who was admitted to the bar. He was born in Townmount Prairie and began the practice of law in 1830. He was judge of our circuit court for a period of about seven years and was chosen by the General Assembly of Illinois as a judge of the Supreme Court, filling the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Justice Walter B. Scates.

Judge Denning's commission as a Supreme Judge bears date of January 19, 1847. His portrait now occupies a prominent position in our new Supreme Court building at Springfield.

After the removal of the county seat from Old Frankfort the first circuit court ever held in Benton convened on Monday, April 19, 1841, Judge Wm. A. Denning, presiding. It was held in a small frame building and it may be of interest to note that the first court house and clerk's office in Benton together cost the large sum of \$539.50.

In those days the quarters provided for the inmates of our jail were not very luxurious. At the March term 1846, of our circuit court the grand jury reported on the condition of our jail as follows:

"The grand jury have examined the jail as the law directs and report that they find the locks of said jail very insufficient and are of the opinion that the prisoners should be furnished with chairs or some kind of seats to sit on. The jury would report that they find the jail as clean as could be expected under the circumstances and the treatment of the prisoners is as good as their situation will admit of. The jury would suggest the propriety of keeping the upper part of the jail swept clean in as much as the prisoners complain that the dirt and dust fall in their eyes.

The jury would further suggest that they are of the opinion that some kind of a coarse bedding should be provided for the prisoners. That at the present they are only furnished with straw to lie on at that laying loosely on the floor of the jail.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN EWING, Foreman."

Franklin County has furnished six circuit judges, namely Wm. A. Denning, Wm. K. Parrish, Andrew D. Duff, Monroe C. Crawford, Daniel M. Browning and Charles H. Miller, who have presided with dignity and credit.

Special mention should be made of Judge Andrew D. Duff, who was the first county judge of Franklin county after our county court was established by the constitution of 1848 and who was circuit judge from 1861 to 1875. Judge Duff was a soldier in the Mexican War. He had few, if any early advantages, but was a great student. During the time that he was circuit judge he maintained a law school in Benton that was attended by young men from the various parts of Southern Illinois. His students have risen to eminence as lawyers.

General John A. Logan was a resident of Benton from 1854 to 1857, during which time he was prosecuting attorney. While he was a resident of Benton he married his wife at Shawneetown. One of our old residents, Mrs. Tabitha Browning, tells in a most interesting manner of how she aided in

preparing the wedding or "infare" dinner for General Logan and his bride.

At the present time our circuit court is almost continuously in session. The city courts of West Frankfort and Benton transact a great deal of business. The scenes are much different from the time when nearly one hundred years ago Judge Lockwood convened the first court in Franklin County. The lawyers are supplied with extensive libraries, typewriters, their telephones and all other conveniences to aid them in expediting their work. However, we are indebted to these hardy pioneers among the lawyers and judges who rode the circuit, tried their cases with but few law books and precedents, wrote their pleadings with goose quill pens and suffered the many inconveniences of their day. They were the leaders in moulding public opinion; they taught respect for the law, and the results of their labors but emphasize the truth of the old maxim that: "The certainty of the law is the mother of repose."





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